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JOHN BULL

Vol. VIII. No. 198 | SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1910. | ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Vol. VIII. No. 196. Saturday, March 5th, 1910. One Penny.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

What a muddle we *are* in! And the worst of it is that all the trouble is due to the wretched spirit of Party which overhangs the whole of public life. But for this, there would have been no difference of opinion as to the propriety of the course which Mr. Asquith proposed, at the outset of the session, to adopt—namely to clear up the existing financial chaos, and then at once to proceed with the question of the House of Lords. Such a course might not have been in strict literal accordance with his Albert Hall pledge, but for all practical purposes it was so. At any rate, it was common-sense—and it was patriotism.

But that would not do for the Party fanatics. What cared they—or, perhaps, we should ask, what understood they—about the nation's financial requirements? They had a composite, if variegated, majority for the curtailment of the Lords' Veto, and it was a case of "Veto first"—and "damn the consequences." In other words, it was to be a Party triumph. The necks of the foe were to be placed under the heels of the victors; and, for the future, never mind how really unrepresentative of the people the Commons might be, or whatever chance majority a Government might possess, there was to be no effective interference by the Second Chamber. And so obsessed were the fanatics with this mania that they declined to listen to anything else. Sir Albert Spicer and Sir Henry Dalziel—new Liberal knights; Mr. Hemmerde—to whom the Government had recently presented the prize recordership of the country; Mr. Wedgwood—most loyal supporter of the Budget in the old Parliament; and a host of new members, all threw over their leader—who pleaded in vain that in a few weeks' time the opportunity would arrive for withholding supplies, and thus bringing pressure on the Lords without, at the same time, bringing discredit on the country.

Hence the trouble. Where were the "assurances"? asked the fanatics. Assurances! Just imagine a democratic House of Commons relying upon the Royal prerogative! As soon as the ridiculous idea got about, we hastened to dispel it. In our issue of February 12th we said:—

> We are in a position to state that up to the present Mr. Asquith has received no "assurances" of any kind from the King in regard to the political situation.

—and being in JOHN BULL . . . !

What is to be the end of it? Will the Opposition come to Mr. Asquith's rescue and help to keep things going for a little while—till the Budget comes along again? That is Mr. Balfour's obvious duty, and we believe he will rise to it.

Meanwhile, steps must be taken to grapple with the situation created by the indisputable fact that the present Party system has collapsed. We suppose it is a little too early for the Business Government, and, therefore, coalition and compromise are the only remedy. *And, in this connection, we learn with interest that Lord Rosebery and Mr. Balfour are to spend this week-end together at the Duke of Rutland's—whilst, by a coincidence, Mr. F. E. Smith is also to be one of the party!*

We were delighted to see Mr. Balfour in much better health, and, consequently, better form. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, too, has "come on" by leaps and bounds; his speech on the Tariff Amendment was by far the best thing he has done. Of the new men, Mr. Steele Maitland is, so far, the most promising—but the days are young.

Mr. Barnes makes a capital Chairman of the Labour Party. He has no pulpit mannerisms, no demagogic fireworks, and his style commands attention.

In answer to our suggestion that the powers of the Public Accounts Committee should be enlarged so that the members should be entitled to personally visit the various public departments and check their administration, the Prime Minister says that the responsibility for public expense must rest in the first instance with the Government, and, in the second, with the Committees of Supply. But he misses two vital points. One of the objects of our suggestion was to secure a check upon the Government; whilst as to the control of the House over Supply, Mr. Asquith forgets that every session about fifty millions of money are voted under the Standing Orders without any discussion or consideration at all. Oh, for that Business Government!

Mr. Charles Roberts, having won two places in the Ballot for Private Members' Bills, found himself in a fix. Having put down a Temperance Bill for his first date, he was puzzled what to do next. But a great inspiration came upon him. He tabled a measure "to empower local authorities to *acquire water rights*"! He has water on the brain.

It is high time that some protest was made about the tricks of evening papers. Most of them label their first issues "Fourth Edition" or "Second Extra," and lay themselves out to deceive innocent news-seekers. The paper-boys take full advantage of the opportunity for fraud thus afforded them, and should be prosecuted every time they are caught. In that case, the proprietors of the journals should share the dock with them as fellow-conspirators.

Here is a strange case. A man was charged before the Winchester City Bench with "loitering, without visible means of support." The evidence was that a policeman had seen him at 12.45 in the morning, and had said to him: "What are you doing out to-night? Got no lodgings?" The person replied: "Yes, I always pay for my lodgings in advance." He was then asked to explain his absence from his lodgings, but very naturally declined to answer so impertinent an inquisition. He was, therefore, fined 5s. and 4s. 6d. costs, with the alternative of seven days. We conclude, therefore, that it is a crime at Winchester to take the air after midnight, and that the police are authorised to interrogate all persons whose inclination takes them for a stroll. Why not revive the curfew at once?

After exhausting its supply of small-boys picking up tin-cans at the seaside, the daily pictorial press has come to gratify its childish propensities with pictures of a baby penguin. To add a touch of maudlin pathos, it has even gone the length of christening the animal; and the extent of its originality, wit, and wisdom is exemplified by its choice of the name "Tootles." Is it really credible that there should be a sufficient number of imbeciles at large to provide a market for such anserine ineptitude?

The refusal of the Sheffield magistrates to permit the opening of a local roller skating rink on Good Friday is another instance of the way in which the legitimate pleasures and recreations of the community are at the mercy of the Puritanical religionists. When it was pointed out to them that rinking was allowed in Sheffield on Christmas Day, the Mayor retorted that Christmas Day was a Feast, but Good Friday was a Fast. The answer was that, nevertheless, football was played on Good Friday. "We have no control over the footballers," responded Sir William Clegg; "if we had the same discretion in regard to football on Good Fridays the magistrates would exercise it, I'm sure." And, apparently, if they had the same control over the kitchens, Sheffielders would have to go without their Sunday dinners.

Here are some interesting particulars about the methods of the Church Army. A man who had been out of work for the greater part of the last twelve months, and had had his house sold up, obtained a permit from a local clergyman entitling him to do two days' work for the local Army. On the first day he duly received 2s. 6d., but the second day he was put to saw wood, with another man, and toiled from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., with only an hour off for soup and bread, for which he was charged 2d. When the day was over, his mate received 1s. 8d., but he received only 1s. 3d. On enquiring the reason, he was informed that 5d. had been deducted because it had been ascertained that he had no children. This disqualification was only mentioned to him after his work had been done, and even then the money deducted was not given to the other man, but went to swell the coffers of the Army. Such sweating ought not to be allowed to go on in a Christian country under the cloak of religion.

A number of niggers have been promenading the streets with handcuffed hands as a demonstration against slavery in West Africa. Their expression of content was not very convincing of calamity, and the extreme of absurdity was reached by the legend on sandwich boards proclaiming that this was a "Cromwell Crusade." Why drag in Cromwell, "who," says a correspondent, "was a notorious patron of slavery, and whose ideas of a crusade consisted mainly in butchering women and children"? We do not endorse that view, but why were the niggers dressed up in women's skirts? Surely this is an infringement of the law.

The latest horror is a Chanticler veil, and we have been privileged to behold a picture of a hideous female who is kind enough to conceal part of her face with a network of cocks and rising suns. The effect is to convey the suggestion of some horrible disease, and we venture to suggest that, if the lady were a true philanthropist, she would consent to conceal her face altogether by the simple process of ensconcing her head in a bag.

Greatly doubting, the Hackney coroner allowed a nurse a shilling attendance fee. Presently another nurse, who had given evidence in a previous case, asked for a shilling also. "Gracious heavens!" cried the coroner, "they're coming thick and fast. Let her have it." You see, he had to be careful, for fear of breaking the bank.

Having done with the General Election, we thought there would be an end of the cant and humbug which so plentifully flavoured its perfervid rhetoric. But here we have it again nauseating the controversies of the County Council elections. For instance, speaking as a Liberal candidate, at Cefn, in Wales, one Mr. J. Share Jones, a professor of something or other in Liverpool University, told his audience that Liberalism is "based upon the ethics and teaching of Jesus Christ Himself, which is in direct opposition to present-day Conservatism." And all this over a purely municipal election. But even Cefn way there may be quite a large number of voters who will refrain from believing that main drainage and cognate matters should be decided according to either Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.

Instead of sending a man to gaol for selling bootlaces without a pedlar's certificate, the man's statement being that he did not know he had to have one, the Mayor of Croydon, Major J. E. Fox, bought up his whole stock of laces and discharged him. Knowing what we do about justices' justice, his worship's combination of mercy and philanthropy is worthy of high commendation. It must not be thought, however, that this case is to be taken as a precedent. Other pedlars must get a certificate, at any rate if they can afford it, and rely for wholesale and retail custom on the open market.

We note that in the Aberavon Town Council, Alderman F. B. Smith has been strongly protesting against the demand of some fussy and spying persons calling themselves the Vigilance Society that the Council should prohibit the sale of newspapers by young persons on Sunday. It can only be bad for young persons to sell newspapers on Sunday in the same sense and in the same conditions as it is bad for them to sell them on Monday, when the ordinary Act governing the employment of children applies. Of course, the real object of the Aberavon Vigilants is to suppress the sale and distribution of Sunday newspapers, which are printed on Saturday, while they never think of demanding the suppression of Monday newspapers, which are printed on Sunday. If the people of Aberavon don't watch some of their representatives on the Town Council they will presently not be able to cook a Sunday dinner.

Apart from other questions, of course, all the political parties have very excellent reasons for not forcing the Government over the pit. For the average party man, the fighting of a contested election is a costly luxury which he willingly pays for on the supposition that he will be undisturbed for a year or two at least in the enjoyment of his victory. Having shed a few hundreds or a few thousands, as the case may be, in January, he is naturally not enthusiastic about shedding as much again in March or April. Further, after such a General Election as we have just survived, all the caucus-mongers find their cashboxes almost empty, while the country generally, having had to pay dearly in loss of business for the riot of its orators, is inclined to be rather vicious towards the party which lets loose the floodgates again. Nobody, at any rate nobody in business, wants another General Election this side next Christmas. As most of us owe a bit, we pray mercy of the political rhetoricians, whether yellow, blue, or green, to give us time to make a bit.

We fear Mr. Asquith has knocked a deal of enthusiasm out of his supporters. On the top of his academic intrepretation of his Albert Hall speech, the Liberals are once more invited to start the assault on the walls of Jericho with—Parliamentary resolutions, which experience has told them are as little effective in the case as the blast of trumpets, the sound of tinkling cymbals, or the spraying of rose water. Liberal resolutions against the House of Lords have long since passed into the region of ludicrous fatuity. We have had them launched as thunderbolts from all the caucuses and as flaming swords from most of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Societies. We have had them according to Campbell-Bannerman, and we have had them according to Asquith; and still the walls of Jericho are even as they were lang syne. Expecting that Asquith would lead them on without parley and without delay, demanding the keys of the outer gate with delivery thereat of heads upon chargers, he invites them to bide a wee and—pass a resolution. And, to be candid, they don't like it. Some of them, in their wrath, go even as far as to whisper into sympathetic ears that they have been sold.

Party politics are as you see them as moves in the game. And undoubtedly in the present instance the Liberals as a whole want to fire shot and shell into the battlements without needless delay. They know that accidents happen in the best-regulated Cabinets; that things may occur owing to circumstances over which Mr. Asquith has no control; that at any moment there may be a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip; that in a second, in the twinkling of an eye, a cloud may appear on the political horizon no bigger than a man's hand; and that Resolution and Veto and all the rest of their baggage may be lost in the overwhelming tempest of which it is the unnoticed sign. And in this, of course, they are right. From their point of view, the boldest course is the safest and the best.

The latest "Perplexity Talk" of the *Daily Mirror* presents the following:—

PROBLEM TO BE FACED.

How came it, asks a correspondent, that the Kings of England ever inhabited Buckingham Palace, and why is it built in the barrack-like form it presents? Was it a purchase?

Surely it is perilously near treason to find fault with the Sovereign's residence in this way! But our contemporary comes to the rescue with what it calls: "The solution of the difficulty," which is that George III. bought the house. As everybody knows, that monarch was mad, and it scarcely strikes us as a "solution of the difficulty" complimentary to our present Sovereign.

This is about the last straw. Doctors are actually complaining that they are underpaid and are organising themselves to exact more blood money! One of them at the recent Poor Law Conference blandly admitted that, as medical officers have to provide drugs at their own expense, they are often unwilling to supply any but the cheapest, or to give proper time and attention to their patients. The result of this, he explained, is that, instead of being cured and restored to work, many invalids remain a charge upon the rates. His remedy is to pay doctors more, but we fail to see what guarantee there would be of honesty. If they are unscrupulous now, they would probably remain so however large their salaries became.

The libel laws certainly want altering. Here is the case of a doubtless charming young lady, called Mrs. Daisy Cynthia Jerome Fowler, who brought an action against the *Walsall Observer* for criticising her theatrical performance. The suggestion was that she gave three encores "without very much provocation," and there was also a harmless jest about a remark in one of her songs, in which she wondered whether she was "a funny little elf." The critic said he wondered too. As we do not seek self-advertisement in the Law Courts, we hasten to state that we assume that Miss Jerome, or Mrs. Fowler, accepts encores only under great pressure and is delightfully elfish, whatever that may be. But even so, it seems rather hard that a paper which indulged in chaff on the subject should have all the trouble of an action and have to pay the costs of both sides. Meanwhile we venture to ask for an explanation of the following lines which the plaintiff has immortalised:—

"But in dear old dirty Birmingham there's one especial name;
And it's "hats off" to our statesman, to our Joseph Cham-ber-lain.
As a speaker he is known to all; he is of world-wide fame,
Like the little pat of butter on the floor."

We hope we are not libelling the poet, but we are really anxious to know why it is a special compliment to compare a distinguished statesman to a little pat of butter on the floor—especially a Warwickshire statesman? Now, if he were Dorset——!

A lady recently left £100 to the Irish Church Mission to Roman Catholics, and the Mission actually had the assurance to try and escape legacy duty on the ground that the money was to be devoted purely to charitable purposes. We confess that an attempt to wean people from the religion of their ancestors scarcely appeals to us as a very charitable proceeding. The only result to a convert would be a quarrel with all his friends and relations, and as the plea of the Mission has been entertained, this is tantamount to endorsing the suggestion that Catholicism is evil in comparison with Protestantism—in fact that rescue from its toils is an act of philanthropy. The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland has decided that the bequest must be regarded as charitable because the motive of the testatrix was entirely unselfish and altruistic. This is a very dangerous doctrine, and we are to remember that many crimes have been committed unselfishly and with the very best of motives. If we were not afraid of annoying Mr. Redmond, we would suggest that this decision has a decidedly Hibernian flavour.

The day of childhood suffrage cannot be far distant. Already the younger generation has taken to strikes and political demonstrations. A local Education Committee in Worcestershire issued a stupid circular forbidding work out of school hours. The intelligence of the children interpreted this to mean that parents should be precluded from enjoying the domestic assistance of their offspring. And accordingly they struck. Probably the school authorities reciprocated—with a heavy hand and a subtle slipper!

The explanation of the fact that the life of Abdul Hamid has been spared is that he alone possessed the secret of the whereabouts of all his treasure. Ever since the revolution, he has been subjected to mental if not physical torture in order to induce him to surrender his possessions. It may, of course, be argued that, as he only accumulated his wealth through his opportunities as a sovereign, deposition ought to imply spoliation. Even so, the money ought surely to have gone towards State purposes. But, as a matter of fact, the greater part of it has been appropriated by members of the Committee of Order and Progress, in just the same spirit as that of the Servian regicides who stole the personal property of King Alexander and Queen Draga. We fear that the corruption of the present constitutional rulers of Turkey is at least as great as that of their predecessors. Taxes from the Yemen and Arabia fail to find their way into the exchequer, and the proceeds of the recent Constantinople loan have also vanished into thin air. Soldiers and officials remain unpaid, ships and armaments remain unbought, and the day of another revolution cannot be very far distant.

The correct translation of elusive words in the more foreign languages is always interesting if you can get it, but we much doubt whether the mind of man will be much illumined by the essays of the barrister, unnamed, who was briefed for a breach-of-promise lady in the London Sheriff's Court a few days ago. The discarded Juliet had told the faithless Romeo over the telephone that he was "swanking." "We may have some explanation of that word, gentlemen," said counsel to the jury, "but I am sure I don't know what it means." When Juliet went into the box he asked, "What did you mean by 'swanking'?" "I meant 'joking,'" she replied. "But 'swank' means that it is a blind?" suggested counsel, notwithstanding that he had previously said he did not know what it meant. Now if "swank" means a "blind," will learned counsel kindly explain what a "blind" means—always supposing that it has nothing to do with the bedroom window? Verbal intricacies of this kind should always be cleared up in the interest of British lexicography.

On a previous occasion, attention has been called in these columns to the extraordinary magisterial methods of Mr. W. H. Maude, Chairman of the Leeds West Riding bench. And now we note another of his alarming eccentricities. A labourer "of no fixed abode" was charged with begging. He stoutly denied the offence, and resisted the two police officers who said they had seen him ask for alms. Their evidence was uncorroborated, the person from whom he had been begging not being called. Answering the magistrate, the man said he worked three weeks ago at Barrow-in-Furness, had been in the Service, had always borne a good character since he left it, and had his discharge papers in his pocket. Mr. Maude refused to look at the papers, however, and though there was no other conviction against the man, sentenced him to fourteen days in gaol. What does Mr. Maude deserve?

The condemnation of M. Gustav Hervé by the French Courts for writing in defence of crime is surprising when we remember how frequently those very Courts acquit the most desperate and abandoned criminals. Presumably it is quite right and proper to give a practical endorsement of murder or robbery, but an unpardonable offence to print an expression of the French national tendency.

We read that the author of "Bill Bailey" has just been found destitute in a workhouse. This is as it should be.

Apparently, the Boy Scouts are in active service as far north as Newcastle-on-Tyne. Last week, a patrol was out. As they were passing a field where a football match was in progress, their ambulance was called for in order to obtain surgical assistance for a goalkeeper who had got his head split open during the performance of his perilous duties. Having placed the victim on the stretcher, the Scouts made hastily to the surgery of a local medico who refused to give the wounded man attention. "I've other things to attend to without looking after Boy Scouts' accidents," he said. The Scouts therefore hurried their charge to a Dr. Welch, who lives a considerable distance away. With the remark that if they had been ten minutes later the goalkeeper would have bled to death, the doctor attended to the man's injuries, and all was well. Of course, a medical man in private practice is under no obligation to attend people brought to him, even if they are bleeding to death, and, consequently, medico No. 1 was within his rights in refusing his skilled assistance. In the circumstances, however, he has put it quite out of our power to recommend him for the gold medal of the Society for the Encouragement of Humanity Among Men.

Here is a clerical story as told to us by a correspondent in Knowle, Warwickshire. "There was living at 'Blue Lake,' Knowle, an old lady, a great invalid, and over 80 years of age. As it was not possible for her to go to church, and knowing her days were very few, she, as a good Churchwoman, expressed a great desire to partake of the Holy Communion before she died. The daughter wrote to the Rev. Cyril St. G. Poole, of St. Philip's Church, Dorridge. This clergyman fixed a time to administer the Communion to the dying lady. He arrived at the time appointed. On having a look round, he inquired, "Where is your altar?" and refused to administer the Communion. Except that we have toned down an expression of contempt here and there, the story is in the exact words of our correspondent. It does not appear necessary to add anything to it.

It appears that part of the recent breakfast menu of the Council of the Royal Zoological Society meeting in Dublin consisted of some eggs laid in China forty years ago. According to one of the learned consumers, the eggs had "become a sort of jelly of delicate flavour." Here, evidently, is a valuable hint for the British poultry breeder. He should commence importing China hens at once. Evidently they lay not for an age, but for all time.

A pretty little hole-and-corner job appears to have been successfully accomplished by the leading lights of the Stratford-on-Avon Town Council. For many years, Mr. R. Lunn has held the position of Town Clerk, subject to the usual provision as to notice. At a meeting of the Council the Mayor springs the news on the ratepayers that the gentleman has resigned, and then suggests to members that before they ask him why he has done so they should go into Committee. There it was resolved that the resignation be accepted "with regret." A proposition was then made that the vacancy should be advertised, but nobody supported it. Then the majority threw the rest of their cards upon the table, for it was proposed, seconded, and carried that Mr. Lunn the younger, a gentleman of indubitable inexperience, should be appointed to the post "upon the terms and conditions on which the office was lately held." The ratepayers of Stratford ought to have sufficient commonsense to judge whether it is a business proceeding for the representatives to hide themselves in Committee while they arrange for the Town Clerkship of the ancient borough to pass as a heirloom in the Lunn family.

From the *Weymouth Standard* it is to be gathered that Canon Gildea has been achieving a new distinction. The story is that at a meeting of the Upwey parishioners, it was decided to terminate the tenancy of a baker who holds a plot of land known as the Poor Lot. That it was not precisely well named seems evident from the fact that the baker, strong in his legal rights, demanded a year's notice. Then it was that the Canon rose to illustrate the high principles of his Christian office, "I have dealt with him ever since he came to Upwey, but I will take care that not another of his loaves shall come into my house, and if everybody in Upwey treats him in the same way he will find that he has made a pretty bad business of it." The spectacle of a rev. gentleman preaching the gospel of the late Captain Boycott because a baker stands upon his rights in preserving his means of livelihood, is unseemly in the extreme. We wonder what the Canon would say if his patrons were suddenly to come upon him with the demand that he should at once resign his own living? What is right for the parson can hardly be wrong for the baker. And, by the way, the Canon had better take a few shillings' worth of legal advice about the law of conspiracy.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

She walked into the Roulette Room at Monte Carlo with a louis in her hand, and turning to her husband asked, "On what number shall I place it?" "On anything," said he—"your age, for instance." With a simpering smile she requested the croupier to place the coin upon 24, and when a minute afterwards 36 was announced, the only consolation she received was an indignant reprimand from her husband—"You *fool!*"

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE CENTRAL SOUTH LONDON FREE CHURCH COUNCIL, WHO, AT THE NEWINGTON ANNUAL LICENSING SESSIONS, URGED THE REFUSAL OF ALL APPLICATIONS FOR STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS TO LICENSED PREMISES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SHELTER FOR CHILDREN..

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!
OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.
WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For announcing in an appeal in "The Sunderland Daily Echo": "I have a few cases of girls from 12 to 14."
THE MAYOR OF SUNDERLAND
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Illness and other ATTRACTIONS *militated against the attendance."*
THE RETFORD, WORKSOP & GAINSBOROUGH NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following testimonial: "Your DOG *Medicines have always suited* ME *very well indeed."*
THE DUCHESS OF WELLINGTON'S KENNEL-MAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing in the "Glasgow Herald": "For Sale Grandfather's CLERK, *brass dial, splendid time-keeper."*
AN ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a sign "was calculated to frighten horses and MOTOR-'BUSES."
COUNCILLOR GREENHILL, OF HAMPSTEAD.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Lady Chesterfield wore ONLY HER PEERESS'S CORONET *at the Coronation."*
THE DAILY SKETCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a letter to the "Daily News": "I am very pleased with the progress of the Gladstone League, and enclose SIX SHILLINGS, *trusting it will become a* GREAT SUPPORT TO THE LIBERAL PARTY."
"A PUBLIC OFFICIAL"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For asking in an election circular: "Are the People or the PEARS *to rule?"*
MR. BASIL WILLIAMS, OF LEWES.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "a large number of electors were rather indignant when they discovered that their doors and WIDOWS *had been practically covered."*
THE WEST LOTHIAN COURIER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following announcement: "To Pianoforte Firms, Music Publishers, and other high-class TAILORS, &c.,"
GARRETT, WHITE & POLAND, 16, HANOVER ST., W.,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Mr. John Redmond DECEIVED *in private a deputation of leading distillers."*
THE EVENING DISPATCH (BIRMINGHAM)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "His Serene Highness Prince Louis of Battenberg was also invited, but was unavoidably prevented from being ABSENT."
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

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*For announcing: "*TOBACCONIST *for sale, owing to illness,* SUIT TWO LADIES."
AN ADVERTISER IN *THE NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the directors and officers of the Oakengates Gas Company DIED *together at the Wrekin Hotel."*
THE EXPRESS AND STAR AND BIRMINGHAM EVENING EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

WHY I ABSTAINED.

By Horatio Bottomley, M.P.

I was one of the three Liberal Members who abstained from voting on Mr. Austen Chamberlain's Tariff Reform Amendment to the Address—after sitting through the whole of the debate. And not having had an opportunity of stating in the House my reasons for adopting this course, I propose to do so now. The amendment was an expression of anxiety respecting the present position of trade and employment, and a regret that the Government were bringing forward no scheme for "enlarging the market for British and Irish produce and increasing the demand for labour by a reform of our fiscal system." But as all parliamentary procedure is more or less a matter of humbug, the simple interpretation put upon these words was that they were an impeachment of Free Trade in favour of Protection, and of what is known as Colonial Preference. With that interpretation I am not for the moment concerned. If I had voted for the amendment it would have been different. I simply abstained. And why?

Because, whilst I regard Protection as a commercial calamity, and Preference as an Imperial impracticability, I know Free Trade—AS WE HAVE IT—*to be a Fraud.* But that is not the worst of it. I know it to be a Folly—and a Folly, in affairs of State, is worse than a Fraud.

I have been gradually coming to this conclusion for some years past. When the youthful mind has been saturated with Adam Smith, and Mill, and Ricardo, it takes a long time to shake off the idea that they were merely abstract philosophers, theorising upon a condition of things which, if it ever did, certainly no longer exists. And it was with a sigh that I recently tore up an old essay whch I discovered amongst my papers, entitled "Land, Labour and Capital," with which I won a prize at the City of London College thirty years ago! Youth and adolescence are the periods of receptivity. If you are built upon an emotional basis, you become a religious or quasi-religious fanatic. If your intellectual faculties predominate, you become a political, or philosophical or scientific pedant. This fact was strongly borne in upon my mind when listening recently to a speech by Mr. J. M. Robertson, M.P. Here is a man of brilliant parts—but exclusively on the intellectual side. In religion an uncompromising Agnostic—he is one of the bitterest fanatics in the House.

If I may indulge in personal introspection, I am happy to think that I have escaped over-development on both the spiritual and intellectual planes just sufficiently to be capable of differentiating Theories from Facts, and of always regarding them as distinct rather than inter-dependent. In Theory, nations exchange with each other the commodities they can best respectively produce. In Fact, they rarely do anything of the kind. In Theory, Imports always balance Exports. In Fact, they do not—any more than a man's purchases balance his sales. Only last week I quoted Mill on the theory of Money. Listen to him:—

> If we assume the quantity of goods on sale, and the number of times those goods are resold, to be fixed quantities, the value of money will depend upon its quantity, together with the average number of times that each piece changes hands in the process. The whole of the goods sold (counting each resale of the same goods as so much added to the goods) have been exchanged for the whole of the money, multiplied by the number of purchases made on the average by each piece. Consequently, the amount of goods and of transactions being the same, the value of money is inversely as its quantity multiplied by what is called the rapidity of circulation. And the quantity of money in circulation, is equal to the money value of all the goods sold, divided by the number which expresses the rapidity of circulation.

There's Theory for you! Theory, did I say? I beg Mr. Robertson's pardon. He would call it Fact—Truth—Gospel Truth. I call it Piffle.

Well, in this state of mind I listened to the debate. I listened, first, to Mr. Austen Chamberlain. It was the best speech yet made on the subject, from the so-called Tariff Reform standpoint. And I listened attentively to Mr. Balfour. He was in much better form than he has been of late. He was handicapped, as compared with Mr. Chamberlain, by the absence of any business knowledge—for, strange as it may sound, the Fiscal question is a Business question; a Business question and nothing more. But neither speech made a very profound impression on my mind. What settled me were the speeches of the Free Traders!

Mr. Buxton, the new President of the Board of Trade—that wonderful Board of which the Archbishop of Canterbury and the *Speaker of the Irish Parliament* are members!—talked glibly about Exports and Imports, which are but the accidents of Trade; and took comfort from the astounding fact that the two industries which are in the worst way are *the only two which are of a native or domestic character*—Building and Shipbuilding!—as though the condition of these two trades was not the very keystone of the whole problem. When Building and Shipbuilding go—we go with them. But, as I have said, Mr. Buxton was new to his post.

Then there was Mr. Mond—one of the heads of a firm enjoying to the full all the benefits of a strongly protected industry. You may say that the protection is the result of Monopoly and of Restrictive Agreements; but what does that matter? Tariff Reform is only one way of securing Protection—Brunner, Mond and Co. have done it for themselves. The Liberals seemed to be quite unaware of, or indifferent to, this important fact; and as Mr. Mond has a manner of speech which suggests that everyone who differs from him ought not to be at large, they went into hysterics at his self-complaisant contempt for the political puppets in front of him. And yet there was scarcely a word in his speech which had the remotest practical bearing upon the situation. We were told that in 1840 it was found that out of a thousand articles which were subject to a tariff, several hundreds scarcely paid for the cost of collection. That is why in Tariff countries the Schedules are periodically revised; and that is why, under a system of Business Tariffs, my proposed Committee of the Board of Trade would have power to amend the Schedule whenever it was thought to be necessary. Besides, a discriminating Tariff, even though unproductive to any substantial degree, might yet have the effect of assisting a British industry over a temporary crisis. Then Mr. Mond prattled about what Bismarck did or said in 1879! Let me quote my good friend, Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes, M.P., who writes the weekly review of Parliament in a democratic contemporary:—

> I was particularly amused when, after he had alluded to some report of a Commission which Bismarck called together, and having shown that he had studied it, Mr. Mond remarked, "I wonder how many Conservative members have even heard of that Commission and its Report." I will be quite candid, and admit that I had never heard of it before—but I cheered furiously at this pointed suggestion that the other fellows were shockingly ill-informed.

There you have it in a nutshell! And how Mr. Rowntree, M.P., cheered! Who said "Cocoa"? And there was Mr. McCallum, Member for Paisley, enjoying himself splendidly! Why do I mention him? I will

tell you. Mr. McCallum is a member of the firm of Iredale and McCallum, who are soap manufacturers, and I remembered reading in the course of the General Election the following little heckling incident :—

> VOTER : Does the free importation of foreign manufactured articles cause unemployment?
> MR. MCCALLUM : No; it increases employment.

Of course that was orthodox Free Trade. But I had in my possession a little document which I had intended to read to the House. It is a humble, unpretentious bit of paper—merely the wrapper of a penny packet of Iredale and McCallum's Soap Powder! And this is what I find printed on it :—

> You are respectfully invited to test its superiority, and, if satisfied, to refuse the goods with which foreign labour has flooded the markets of the United Kingdom, and so thin the ranks of the great army of British unemployed.

Never mind the grammar. You again see the difference between the Economist and the Business man—even though he be one and the same individual!

Can you wonder, then, that as I sat and listened to the debate my mind turned to thoughts of a sane, non-party Business policy in regard to the Fiscal as to every other question? Here is the policy of the John Bull League, as I propounded it at the Albert Hall :—

> What would a Business Government do? I am not going to indulge in the beautiful dream that you can ever make the foreigner agree to pay your own expenses as well as his own. Nor am I going to indulge in the dream that you can do *permanent* good by adopting any course which of necessity must increase the cost of anything you buy. But, having that saving clause, I say that a Business Government would not look upon any fiscal system as so sacrosanct that it dare not put its finger upon it in any vulnerable part. and if it could be shown that in the special circumstances of any particular trade, at any particular time, some fiscal antidote was necessary, no Business Government would hesitate a moment before applying it. And the very last authority they would go to for guidance would be those learned professors who, without an atom of business experience, have written dry and elaborate works on political economy. Nor would they trouble themselves about what are called Board of Trade Returns. What a Business Government would do would be to apply the crowbar of commonsense to tariff walls and tariff gates, and force every country by degrees—by applying that antidote to which I referred just now, at the moment most convenient to the other country and least injurious to our own—to open its doors to the free interchange of the world's commodities, which everyone must admit is the ideal condition of things, so that every country could in that way dispose of its surplus products by exchanging them for those which other countries can better produce.

And by what machinery would I accomplish my object? Let me quote again—this time from an article on "Business Tariff Reform," which appeared in this journal on January 15th last :—

> What, then, would a Business Government do? It would have a Customs Committee of the Board of Trade, comprising elected representatives of employers and workmen, and one or two financial and commercial experts. Such Committee would receive monthly reports from Chambers of Commerce, Trades Unions, manufacturers and others, directing attention to any respects in which British industry was being unfairly handicapped by the abuse of the freedom of our ports—and it would have power to impose for such period as it thought fit, and to such an extent as it thought desirable, such special import duty as in its opinion would give the home industry an opportunity of recovering itself—but, as Mill himself points out, it should be made clear that such relief would be of a purely temporary character. In this way I am satisfied that the principal causes of hardship which our present fiscal system involves would be overcome, and that, whilst retaining the full benefit of free imports, when they suited our purpose, we should checkmate their abuse. You may call this Tariff Reform. I call it Business.

That is why I abstained.

THE COMING BUSINESS GOVERNMENT.

MR. BOTTOMLEY'S CAMPAIGN IN THE COMMONS.

On Wednesday, last week, Mr. Bottomley gave notice of the following motion :—

> That in the opinion of this House the present party system of government has broken down—and that the time has arrived when the various public departments of the State should be taken out of the control of lawyers and philosophers and placed in the hands of business men possessing practical knowledge of trade and commerce, assisted by a Department of Labour, presided over by a Minister directly elected by the trades unions of the country.

The *Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and other responsible journals mention that the reference to "Business men" was received with cheers.

On the same day, Mr. Bottomley asked the Prime Minister

> whether, before setting up the Public Accounts Committee, he will consider the desirableness of enlarging the scope of its powers, in order that its members may have authority to visit from time to time the various departments of the Public Service and obtain information as to the practicability of reducing the present cost of their administration.

Mr. Asquith's reply is dealt with editorially on another page.

On Thursday, Mr. Bottomley asked the President of the Board of Trade

> what steps, if any, he proposed to take to fill up the vacancy in the constitution of the Board created by the fact that for some time past one of its members namely, the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons had not been available; and whether he would consider the desirability of introducing legislation to amend the constitution of the Board by substituting for his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury a person of commercial and business experience.

Mr. Buxton's reply was of a jocular character, and is not worth quoting. Of course, he is new to the office.

On Monday last, Mr. Bottomley asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies

> whether he could state in which of the British Colonies or Dominions periodical returns are required by Law of all dormant balances and unclaimed securities in the hands of bankers; and whether he would grant a Return showing the value of unclaimed moneys and securities thus disclosed.

In reply, the Government admitted that in several Colonies such Returns were required by law, and promised to grant Mr. Bottomley an official Return on the subject.

Mr. Bottomley also asked the Secretary to the Treasury

> whether he could state the total sums paid up to the present during the current financial year to the two Law Officers of the Crown, respectively.

In reply, the Financial Secretary stated that the information would require much labour to collect, but it would be given at a later stage.

The Press continues to take up the idea. Here is an extract from a recent issue of *The Scotsman* :—

> In business circles it is thought a Minister other than the President of the Board of Trade should be appointed to look after the general trade of the country. The Board of Trade is regarded as more or less an antiquated institution, having frequently at its head a person with no commercial training. What traders want is an experienced business head, who knows what is wanted, and is not selected for mere party reasons.

On the other hand, the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* refers to our notice of motion as "Mr. Bottomley's Joke." Our contemporary has a weird sense of humour.

And from the *Birmingham Daily Mail* we gather that "A Business League" has been formed at Wednesbury, for the purpose of "extending the business principles, particularly in connection with the government of the country."

THE "MITRE," HAMPTON COURT.

A WORD WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LICENSING BENCH

The "Great Unpaid" have been distinguishing themselves at Hampton Court in their administration of their powers to grant or refuse licences. The Mitre Inn is, in its way, as famous as Hampton Court Palace, and since the Compensation Act came into operation has paid £400 towards extinguishing licences, or about £60 a year. Although there are now thirteen licensed houses within a radius of a few hundred yards of the Mitre, only one licence (a beerhouse) has been extinguished, so that the Mitre has not received much benefit for its £400. On the other hand, *three new licences* have been created. The thirteenth licence was created a week or two ago, an eating house exactly next door to the Mitre.

The bench which granted the licence was presided over by Mr. J. Ashby, of the locally well-known family of brewers and bankers, while the counsel who represented the applicant was Mr. Marcus Ashby, a nephew of the presiding justice. We presume it is considered that there is no impropriety in a justice sitting in a case where his own nephew represents the applicant for a licence. And, as there is no impropriety in a magistrate granting a licence to a relative representing his client, we presume the holder may, without giving offence, buy his beer of Ashby's Brewery and bank his profits at Ashby's Bank.

Many people hold that there should never have been any monopoly in drinking licences, and that any respectable person should be allowed to sell wines and spirits if he chooses, especially in a *bonâ fide* eating house. But as a monoply does exist and the extinguishment of licences is carried out at the expense of licence holders, it seems monstrously unfair to mulct a man £400 to extinguish licences far away from the sphere of his own trade, and yet create three new licences within a stone's throw of his house.

ANOTHER BROAD-MINDED CLERIC.

Here is a letter from a North London curate. We are getting on!

Let me say how I literally dance with glee when I read the remarks you pass on the more narrow-minded section of the clerical community. The beastly shame is that the average man-in-the-street wants to tar us all with the same brush. There are parsons *and* parsons, but I believe that the old clerical-mannered school is fast disappearing, and that the modern curate, at any rate, is becoming more human, more real, and more broad-minded. Some people seem to live in dread and awe of the "cloth." It makes me laugh to see people avoid the railway carriage in which they happen to find me ensconced! Do they really think I am going to lecture them, etc.? I'm sure I don't know how I should start about it! They would be surprised, perhaps, if they knew that at present I am sharing rooms with a gentleman who never goes to church, but takes a walking tour every Sunday morning, and sleeps in his armchair by the fire all Sunday afternoon (during the winter months). We are the best of friends, and because we are both extremely busy at our own respective jobs during the week, we are not tired of one another, as so usually happens under similar circumstances. Our friends gave us a month—and then predicted our first quarrel; but we are well into the second year, and have not once had a cross word. And a parson is the last person his friends ever imagined he would consent to live with. Naturally! So much depends on the parson. I do not believe in proselytising. You deserve the thanks of everyone for the splendid way in which you have denounced the preaching of party politics from the pulpit.

During the time of the General Election I was asked by a neighbouring vicar to address his men's meeting on the subject, "How to use your vote." I accepted the invitation, but insisted on the meeting being held in the Parish Room, and that a discussion be encouraged afterwards. Several men with "strong views" came with the express intention of "heckling" me, but I adopted an entirely non-party attitude, and defied any one of them to discover what my personal views were at the end of my address.

Well, sir, I hope the Party system *is* doomed, and I, for one, gladly subscribe myself as a warm advocate of your Business Government. May it come soon.

Another Non-Curateish Curate.

PARABLE OF A SCIENTIFIC YOUTH.

By A. G. T.

A Scientific Youth, coming to his twenty-third year, bethought himself of getting a wife. He possessed a great many Opinions, and one of them was that Woman was the Complement of Man, and therefore Necessary to him. So he travelled all the country seeking a Maid. Many were presented to him, but he was hard to please, for he was an Advanced Eugenist, and rejected where an Elementary Eugenist would have accepted. This one, for instance, was a well-grown maiden, but she lacked an important Female Quality, to wit, coquetry; and this one was both well-grown and coquettish, but lacked the Maternal Instinct; and this one was beautiful but possessed the Artistic Temperament. All lacked in the eyes of the Scientific Youth, and, disappointed at finding no mate like unto himself, he returned to his father's house.

On the way he met an Old Man to whom he spoke of his disappointment. The Old Man listened with meet sympathy, and nodded his head Wisely. "Ah," quoth he, "you need the Princess of Yon—she is all you need, for she is Beautiful, Healthy, Good and Wise."

Hearing this the youth expressed a great Desire to learn how he might meet this Princess. For a space the Old Man was loth to tell him, but yielding to Earnest Solicitation he explained the route to the Palace of Yon.

The Scientific Youth travelled for many days, but always with a Light Heart, for every wayfarer, even women, spoke of the Princess, and, like the Old Man, said she was Beautiful, Healthy, Wise, and Good.

When he came to the Palace of Yon he explained his errand and was at once led to the Princess. She awaited him with a Lovely Smile on her lips, and he knew that All had spoken the truth. Moreover he knew that she was his Appointed Complement, for his Heart Beat strangely as he gazed on her. Being an Advanced Eugenist he set Great Store by the beating of the Heart. But, as a Scientific Youth, his Intellect must be satisfied as well as his Heart, and he questioned Her concerning Herself.

"I spend five hours each day in the Open Air," said the Princess, "and run a mile daily in all weathers."

"Ah," said the youth, with Great Satisfaction. "Can you tell me then of your Goodness?"

"As to that," answered the Princess, "I am but a Woman, and therefore have Little Understanding. I am the servant of Love, and do as I am bidden."

"Ah," said the youth, with Complete Satisfaction, for by such answer the Princess proved herself both Good and Wise. "You are my journey's end, and I will Marry you."

"As to that," replied the Princess, "I fear I cannot, for I do not like you."

And she went out of the room Laughing Heartily.

The Exegis.—*This shows us that not uncommonly the Seeker finds other than that which he Sought.*

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM!

Here is a story, for which one of our readers vouches:—

"Some time ago, a little chap of my acquaintance went in for a scholarship. After practising and training for a number of months, the day came for him to sit for the scholarship. After a brief interval, he was proclaimed a winner. He was put up before the whole school (Council) and was told that he was now entitled to three years' free education at Cowper Street School, City Road, E.C.

"When the time came for him to take his place in the new school, to his surprise he found that he would have to pass another examination set by the masters of Cowper Street School, before he could be allowed to become a scholar. To his own and friends' dismay, he failed in this second examination, and was consequently refused admission to the school.

"Now I have thought this matter over and over, but cannot for the life of me see the justice in it. Surely, if a boy studies and trains for a scholarship, which he is told will entitle him to three years' education in a certain school, and he wins the said scholarship, he has a perfect right to enter that school, without any further examination. All sorts of reasons might be offered for his failure in the school examination—nervousness for one. I think it a piece of cruel injustice to practise on a young lad."

And so do we!

WHO IS MR. PERCY C. BURTON?

Mr. Percy C. Burton is the Managing Director of Messrs. P. C. Burton and Co., Ltd., the well-known Advertising Agents. Mr. Burton is a young man who came over from Ireland a few years ago, and in a short time has built up one of the biggest Advertising Agencies in the Kingdom; to-day there is scarcely any large firm which is not glad to consult and obtain the advice of Mr. Burton as regards its advertising.

Mr. P. C. Burton is the man who is responsible for the whole of the advertising of "Perrier" water. And his skilful advertising is one of the reasons why "Perrier" took its place directly as the Premier mineral water in the country. Messrs. P. C. Burton and Co., Ltd., have to-day a branch and a growing business in Belfast; and in addition to his duties as Managing Director of this firm, Mr. P. C. Burton is the Chairman and Managing Director of that well-known firm, Messrs. Horncastle, Ltd. He is also a Director of the British Empire Agency, Ltd. Five years ago he came to London a comparatively unknown man, and he has acquired this position in five years.

How did he do it?

The reader will naturally ask—how could Mr. Burton possibly have achieved such a success in such a short time?

Now, he did not do it by chance, and he did not do it by luck. Neither did he achieve this distinguished success in a fit of absence of mind, as they say Great Britain acquired her Colonies.

Mr. Percy C. Burton came to the front by means of native wit, and Business sagacity, and hard work.

His native wit enabled him to see that fine opportunities lie all around in the Business world for the man who is keen enough to recognise them. His Business sagacity enabled him to see at once that there was a tool in the market by means of which these Business opportunities might be used by the Business man who is ambitious and intelligent. And hard work—with the right tool remember—enabled him to succeed.

Now what is the right tool for the Business man of the day?

This second question naturally follows upon the first one. The tool in question is "The Business Encyclopædia." It is the only work that covers all Business knowledge—that contains all that authoritative and expert and up-to-date Business knowledge that should, properly speaking, constitute the stock-in-trade of the young Business man. It is authoritative because it is written by men who are at the top of the tree in the Business world; it is expert knowledge that is here offered to the Business man; and it is up-to-date knowledge of Business methods and principles as they stand to-day. Let us see

What Mr. Percy C. Burton says about it:

"When I ordered your 'Business Encyclopædia' I was somewhat sceptical as to its possible value, considering the large number of encyclopædias already on the market.

After a careful study of your great work, I found I had to alter my opinion and to admit that of all business works of reference I know of none that is of greater value to any man engaged in trade and industry than your "Business Encyclopædia."

From cover to cover it is designed and constructed by a master hand, or perhaps I should say a series of master hands, and the amount of useful information it contains only becomes apparent when one finds oneself in a difficulty and has to refer to its pages for guidance or information. I am constantly referring to it.

I have not the slightest hesitation in recommending it to any commercial man; to the young man who contemplates engagaing in the strife of commerce, it will prove a continual help and a real adviser. I consider no business house should be without 'The Business Encyclopædia.'"

"The Business Encyclopædia" covers every question that can possibly arise in the increasingly important world of business.

Written by Business Men.

This new and enlarged edition of "The Business Encyclopædia" contains stimulative and practical articles on Business Building, Business Methods, and Business Success written by men who are at the head of some of the biggest businesses in the kingdom. Amongst these are Mr. Richard Burbidge (Managing Director, Harrods', Ltd.), Mr. S. J. Waring (Managing Director, Waring and Gillow, Ltd.), Mr. Conrad Fry (J. S. Fry and Sons, Ltd.), Mr. J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager, *The Times*). These men have built up the businesses they represent into the gigantic successes they are to-day; in "The Business Encyclopædia" they place the secrets of the methods by means of which they succeeded at the disposal of practical business men who are straining after Business Success.

The section dealing with Book-keeping, Accountancy and Auditorship has been undertaken by Lawrence R. Dicksee, M.Com.F.C.A., formerly Professor of Commerce Birmingham University, assisted by a staff of about a dozen of the most expert chartered accountants in the country.

It follows, therefore, that what "The Business Encyclopædia" cannot tell you about business "isn't knowledge." The use of "The Business Encyclopædia," by

Increasing your Business Knowledge.

will serve to give you confidence in your own ideas. Constant study of it will teach you how to stimulate business; it will show you the impossibility of standing still in business, how to husband your capital, how to increase your credit, how to keep down expenses and to send up sales; how to balance your books, how to check waste and loss and to increase profits, how to make your business a safe and sure success, how to build up, extend, and develop a business, etc., etc. These things are not dealt with from the employer's point of view only; the intelligent and ambitious employé will find here all that detailed and systematised information which he cannot afford to be without.

What "The Business Encyclopædia" tells you about sound business methods is "good business."

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THREE OPINIONS.

SIR THOMAS LIPTON—

"The 'Business Encyclopædia' is got up in a first-class manner, and should prove most valuable to every business man."

SIR THOMAS DEWAR—

"The volumes are full of information, and I feel sure they will be found necessary in every commercial house. Now that we see the Encyclopædia the marvel is that such a work has not been thought of in this country before."

A CLERK'S OPINION.

Mr. G. W. Reid, Clerk, Fortnum Road, London, N.: "I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

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THE POLITICAL PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

By John Corn.

Chapter II.

The neighbours also came out to see him run; and, as he ran, some mocked, others threatened, and some cried after him to return; and, among those that did so, there were two that resolved to fetch him back by force. The name of the one was *Radical* and the name of the other *Tory*. Now, by this time, the man was got a good distance; but in a little time they overtook him. Then said the man "Hallo, wherefore are ye come?" They said, "To persuade you to go back with us." But he said, "That can by no means be; come along with me."

"What!" said *Tory*, "and leave our party friends?"

"Yes," said *John Briton*, for that was the pilgrim's name, "because that ALL which you shall forsake is not to be compared with a little of that."

Tory. "What are the things you seek?"

Briton. "I seek a nation great, free, just, and merry. Read it so, if you will, in my book, John Bull."

"Tush!" said *Tory*, "away with your book; will you go back with us or no?"

"No, not I," said the other.

Tory. "Come, then, neighbour *Radical*, let us turn again, and go home without him; there is a company of these crazy-headed coxcombs, that are wiser in their own eyes than seven men that can render a reason."

Then, said *Radical*, "Don't revile; if what *Briton* says is true, the nation he pictures is better than ours as it exists to-day; my heart inclines to go with him."

Tory. "What! more fools still! Be ruled by me, and go back. Go back, go back, and be wise."

Briton. "Nay, but do thou come with thy neighbour, *Radical*; there *is* such a nation to be found."

"Well, neighbour *Tory*," said *Radical*, "I begin to come to a point. But, my good companion, do you know the way to this desired place?"

Briton. "I am directed by a man, whose name is *Commonsense*, to speed me to Number 67, Long Acre."

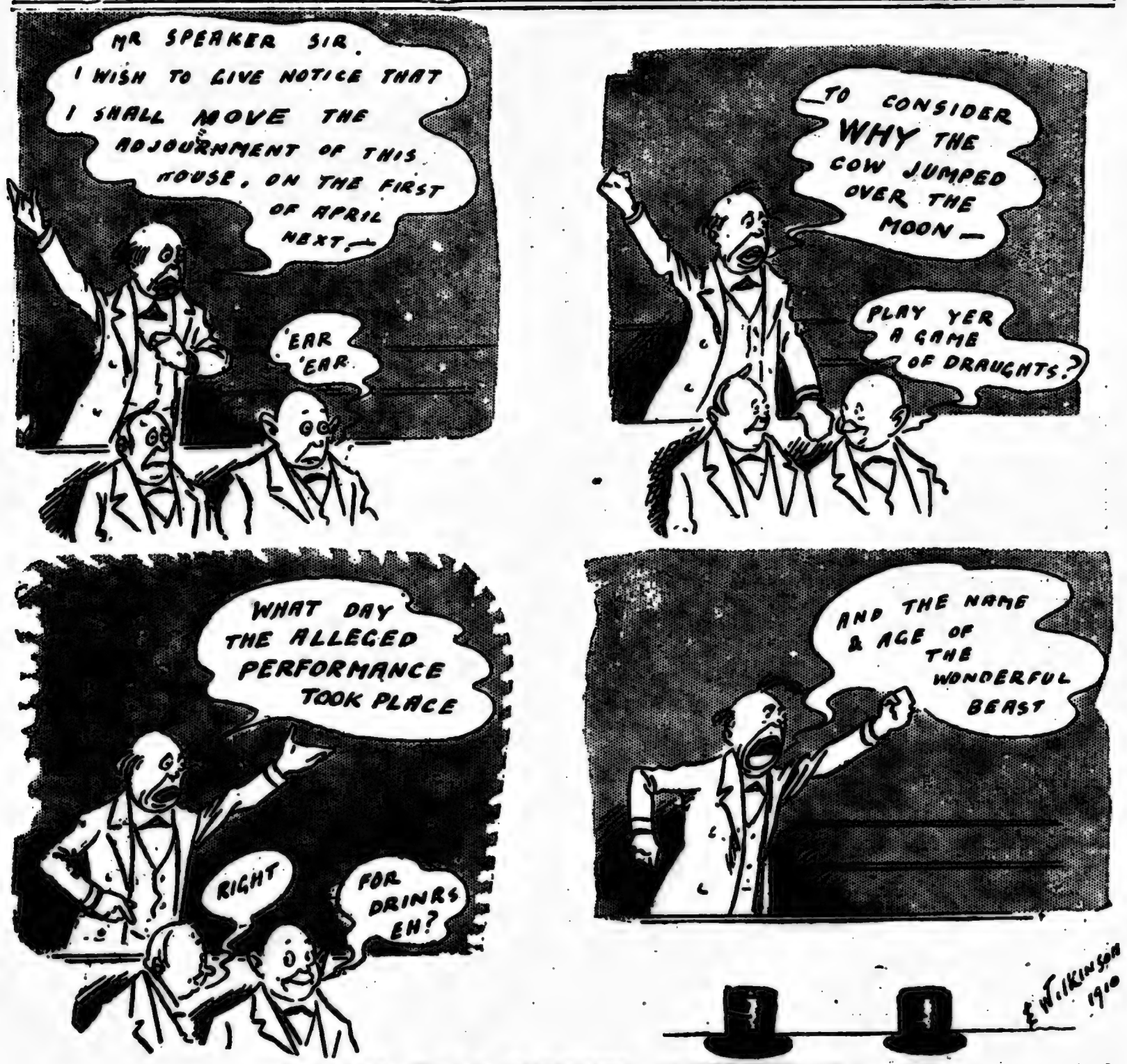
Radical. "Come, neighbour *Briton*, since there are none but us two here, tell me now further what the things are, and how to be enjoyed, whither we are going."

Briton. "I can better conceive them in my mind than speak of them with my tongue. In the first place, the nation whither we wend shall be mighty, but not agressive. The people shall be free in the best sense of the word. They shall be free to act as they please so long as they do no injury to others. They shall be free to think what they please, eat what they please, drink what they please, and amuse themselves as they please. In that nation justice shall be administered with a merciful hand. The churches will not war one against the other. And the good of the State as a whole will be the first and last consideration of politicians."

Radical. "The hearing of this is enough to ravish one's heart. But are these things to be enjoyed?"

Briton. "That is recorded in this book."

(*To be continued.*)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—TO CONSIDER WHY THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON—
PLAY YER A GAME OF DRAUGHTS?
WHAT DAY THE ALLEGED PERFORMANCE TOOK PLACE
RIGHT
FOR DRINKS EH?
AND THE NAME & AGE OF THE WONDERFUL BEAST
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THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC.

THE CASE FOR THE DOCTORS.

By M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

It is by no means infrequent to see in the Press complaints made against members of the medical profession, charging them with exhibiting too mercenary a spirit, in withholding their services in emergencies until their fee has been assured, or, in other ways, acting contrary to what the man-in-the-street considers to be their duty.

While these charges are comparatively common, it is very exceptional for the profession, on the other hand, to offer any explanation, or in any way to attempt to vindicate their attitude in the matter, rightly feeling themselves in no way called upon to justify their actions to an often too curious public.

Mention has from time to time been made in John Bull, and "Open Letters" have been addressed to doctors, with the probable result that a large section of the public, who reads this paper, is prone to be misinformed, and so get erroneous ideas on the subject, because only one, and that the *prima facie*, aspect of the question is presented to them.

But, of course, there is the other side of this question, and it is the object of this short article to show how, in most cases, the medical man's attitude is unassailable, and how that often his action is directly aimed at benefiting the very people who most abuse him.

The "Club" System.

People are often fond of quoting the text that "the labourer is worthy of his hire," and yet, to make a sweeping assertion, there is no calling in the world in which this adage is so ignored in all grades of society. For it is a matter of common knowledge that, amongst the richer classes, medical expenses are to be paid last of all, and only then if quite convenient, whereas, although the poor pay ready money in small fees, yet the "club" system is rapidly extending, and is a kind of huge "trust" against the medical man, demanding all his skill, attention, and materials for a sum so small as to be ludicrous. That this is no exaggeration, the following extract from a typical club's rules will show :—"The medical officer shall attend all members, and provide them with medicine, splints, ointments, leeches, and bandages for all cases of medical necessity arising from disease or accident, and regularly attend all sick members, and do his utmost to restore them to health." It also says that, provided they live within three miles of his surgery or place of residence, he must attend them if necessary at their own homes and charge nothing extra. For these manifold services the doctor is to receive the lordly sum of *ninepence a quarter*, or, in other words, three shillings a year. The club doctor is usually a harassed but genial man, who knows his patients' ways and smiles quietly to himself; but his patients are far different, for they regard him as an inferior sort of servant, and, if asked, will announce their intention of "taking out my three bob in physic," even if they have to revert to the old stereotyped "awful pains in the back."

The Doctor's Loss.

It is usually against a doctor in such a practice that a charge is preferred, and this is really the true story of thousands of cases which have occurred, and are occurring to-day. In the middle of his surgery hours he may have had his only two private patients come to consult him, when a man rushes in and summons him to a "fearful accident" not far off, which often turns out to be exceedingly trivial. He leaves his surgery, and when he eventually returns he finds his two patients gone, and so he has lost two sure fees. Then he looks round to recover his fees for his attendance to the accident. If the police did not directly send for him, he has no claim on the police fee he would otherwise get; and on applying to the patient's relatives and friends he is usually asked, "Who called you in?" and why (!) he had "interfered"? And then the door is slammed in his face.

This is no exaggeration, and is by no means a rare story, and if medical men were only to do what is really their duty to themselves and to each other, they would demand, in all but the most exceptional cases, to have their fee assured them before they ever attended an accident.

The ultra-humane section of the general public may lift up their hands and utter lamentations over such grossly materialistic views, but they must not forget that a man enters the medical profession with exactly the same idea as the man who enters the legal profession, for he means to earn his living thereby, although the large army of doctors who work for practically nothing in the mission field and amongst the destitute must not be forgotten; the average practitioner has no pretensions to being a philanthropist, for philanthropy in the field of healing diesase is the *raison d'etre* of hospitals.

Damages for "Malpraxis."

Humanity is a funny virtue, especially in excess. People must be more practical, and not mawkishly sentimental over such questions, and realize that a doctor's life is not in many cases a bed of roses, but is more often a bed of thorns. Illustrations of how he is swindled, left and right, could be multiplied *ad nauseam*, but one particularly mean swindle to which he is often exposed is that of the shady lawyer. As an example of this gentleman's operations, the following story will serve: In a small country practice in the North of England, an elderly doctor, who had lived his life there, was much annoyed by the repeated visits of an agent for some useless kind of patent medicine. He repeatedly declined to give the man an order, and one night when his surgery was full, he again presented himself, and was ordered off the premises. As he was going, he remarked that he had fallen that day, and hurt his hand slightly, and asked for advice as to what he should do. The doctor told him he had probably sprained a joint, and advised a poultice to relieve any pain. Three months later the doctor had a most imposing typewritten letter from a firm of lawyers saying that three months ago their client had called on him professionally to consult him about his hand, and had been told he had sprained it, but that subsequently it had been found to have been broken in one small bone, and that, therefore, his client demanded the sum of £150 for *malpraxis*. Fearing litigation, he paid the full amount. As a matter of fact, there are any number of lawyers ready to take up a case of so-called *malpraxis*, on a profit-sharing system in lieu of fees, and many of our most eminent surgeons will decline to operate on even a hospital patient without a signed declaration from the patient himself that he realizes to the full the need of the operation, and consents to it.

The Midwives' Act.

One last paragraph must be devoted to the "Open Letter" in the issue of January 15th, to the "Chairman of Committee, Newcastle Lying-in Hospital." This is just the class of case which shows the doctor in the worst possible light, but his action, although apparently callous, is one that is *absolutely essential* to ensure the safety of the public. Childbirth is regarded by the huge majority of the working-class women as belonging to the same category of household duties as cooking or washing. They have no conception of the great need for cleanliness, much less for surgical cleanliness, asepsis, or Listerism. Accordingly, when the recent Midwives' Act was passed, a most dangerous measure, instead of having a doctor to attend them at this important crisis, the woman engages her old friend, Mrs. Smith, who now has her "'orterised 'stificate." The danger to the mother in these cases is immense, for Mrs. Smith flouts the doctor, and when, eventually, in fear, she sends hot-foot for him, her message is only too true, "Will the doctor come at once?—*patient dying*."

The doctor comes, and the patient dies shortly after his arrival. To start saying "If only——" is useless, so he fills up a death certificate, and Mrs. Smith escapes all shadow of blame, and is enabled to continue her infamous practice. She and her *confrères* are a serious menace to the community.

In these cases the medical man practically *never* gets his fee, and should an inquest be necessary, the twelve good men and true will wag their heads and "severely censure" the doctor; but for what reason, they know not.

In the case referred to in John Bull, without having any knowledge whatever of Newcastle, the writer has a very strong suspicion that the hospital in question is like several leading London hospitals, and refuses to accept responsibility of any kind where the midwife summons the obstetrician too late, when she has put the patient's life in grave jeopardy of poisoning, and often the patient has begged for the doctor to be summoned.

After all, the average medical man sees more of pain and suffering than the majority of other men, and he is, perhaps insensibly, more sympathetic to all, but his advice to all his critics is, "Be just and be sensible."

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"TRUTH" AND THE CAXTON BALZAC.

It is interesting to note what the literary expert on the staff of *Truth* says of the excellence of the Caxton Balzac. We take this extract from the issue of *Truth* for last December the 24th:—

"The Caxton edition of Balzac's works is the first and only complete edition of this author ever issued in England. It has been my privilege to inspect the fifty-three volumes, which include everything written by Balzac, as classified by M. Michael Levy, the publisher of the French 'Edition Definitive,' according to Balzac's intentions; and I can testify not only to the excellence of translation, but also to the charm of the type, binding, paper, and especially of the exquisite illustrations by famous French artists. I should mention also that they are absolutely unexpurgated, and are translated with fidelity, avoiding the coarseness which is so marked in the works of less skilful translators, although quite foreign to the spirit of Balzac himself. Considered in every light, I am unable to conceive a more satisfactory edition of the great novelist's work, and I have no scintilla of doubt but that this new departure in the Caxton Company's programme will have as great success as those which have preceded it, if not greater."—*Truth*, Dec. 24th.

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IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

XXXVIII.—THE SPEAKER.

I have the highest admiration and deepest reverence for the office of Speaker of the House of Commons. In my estimation the Chairman of the Mother of Parliaments occupies a far more exalted position than the Prime Minister of the day. Amidst the jar of warring parties he sits in passionless, god-like imperturbability. Like the nod of the Olympian Jove, his word is law. At his command members must eat their words or submit to be banished from his presence. Consequently I have always looked upon the Speaker as a sort of superman, above the ordinary weaknesses of humanity—a kind of personification of the principle of justice and order.

Filled with these musings I recently called at the Speaker's House, and asked to see the Right Hon. James Lowther. I was at once conducted to his presence.

"What can I do for you?" asked the Speaker.

"I should like to ask you a few questions," I said.

"Order, order! interposed Mr. Lowther, sternly; "you must give notice of that."

"I beg yours," I said, in some surprise.

"Dear, dear," ejaculated the Speaker; "force of habit, my dear sir. Now, what would you like to know?"

"In the first place, may I ask if you are happy in the position which you occupy in the House of Commons?"

"The idea of happiness cannot be associated with politics," observed Mr. Lowther.

"Well, shall I substitute the word contented?" I asked.

"I am content to remain in more or less masterly inactivity since it is the desire of the House of Commons; but I am willing to confess that I would sooner be taking an active part in the battle that rages around me daily."

"Ah; and I daresay that when some slow-witted member fails to make the obvious retort, you itch to interpolate it?"

"Quite true," laughed the Speaker; "it is not the things that are said in the House, but the things which are not said, that amuse me. The splendid repartees which are missed would make the fortune of a dozen debaters."

"Now, Mr. Speaker," I proceeded, "I am aware that your office forbids you from expressing an opinion on any particular policy, except in the case of a casting vote, but may I venture to inquire whether you are in favour of Home Rule for Ireland?"

"Order, order!" cried Mr. Lowther; "the hon. member for John Bull confesses that he is aware of the rule, and proceeds to ask me to break it."

But a twinkle in the eye encouraged me to persevere.

"I must, with all respect, press for an explicit answer to my question," I said, in correct front-bench style.

"I should like notice of that question; but I am willing to make an exception in this instance. I take this opportunity to declare with all the emphasis of which I am capable, that I am utterly opposed to Home Rule."

"Ah; you consider that it would be detrimental to the national interests?" I suggested.

"I don't say that," returned the Speaker.

"Perhaps you believe that it would inaugurate an era of anarchy in Ireland.?"

"I have not said so," replied Mr. Lowther.

"Maybe you consider that it would lead ultimately to the disintegration of the whole Empire?"

"I express no such opinion," responded the Speaker.

"Then why on earth are you opposed to Home Rule," I demanded, "if it is for none of these things?"

"Because," replied Mr. Lowther, with great deliberation, "because it would eclipse the gaiety of the House of Commons. It is the Irish members whose wit and humour—the more humorous when unconscious—make the monotony of my life as Speaker at all endurable. Give Ireland Home Rule, rob Parliament of the Irish party, and I shall be inclined to ask the House of Commons, as Hamlet asked the chapless skull of Yorick, 'Where be your gibes now? Your gambols? Your flashes of merriment that were won't to set the *benches* in a roar?'—No. sir; I am opposed to Home Rule for the best of all reasons—a love of laughter, the gods' best gift to man."

The interview was then adjourned, without question put.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Specially Mis-reported for "John Bull.")

By Richard Morton.

(Mr. Morton satirises recent Police Court proceedings.)

SERIOUS CHARGE—THE POLICE NOT GUILTY AGAIN.

Nelly Collard, a respectably-dressed and good-looking young woman, described as a dressmaker and giving an address in Hunter Street, was brought up before Mr. Peter Cutter, at St. Mary-the-Good, on a charge of speaking to a gentleman, thereby causing considerable annoyance to passengers in Southampton Row.

Constable Kopper said he saw the accused speak to a gentleman shortly before midnight. As he had seen her speak to other gentlemen on that night and also on other occasions, he had considered it his duty to arrest her. In reply to the charge at the station, she said a great mistake had been made, and that she was a dressmaker in regular employment and of good character.

Magistrate: Did you believe her?

Constable: Having seen what I saw, and having arrested her, it was impossible for me to credit her statements.

Constable Peeler corroborated, and said he had seen the lady before and had occasionally bestowed upon her a word in season. He regretted to state this had no effect, and he had seen the accused talking to a gentleman more than once.

The Magistrate said the case looked quite clear, and asked the defendant if she had anything to say.

Mr. Huntley Palmer said that this was evidently a case of mistaken identity, and he could not complain too much of the size of the mistake. His client was a perfectly respectable lady, with an unimpeachable character. The police had erred, and he should at once put his client in the witness-box.

The accused then denied everything on oath. The only gentleman who spoke to her was a perfect stranger who stood in front of her and asked her if he was on the right road for Hanwell. She told him to keep on just as he was going and he would certainly reach there in good time. Then the policeman took her into custody. She had never been cautioned before by any constable, and the reason she was late that night was because she had been to supper with some friends at a distance and was on her way home, having just alighted from the bus.

Evidence was then given by her landlady, by the landlady's daughter, and by her employer, who all testified to her high character and hard-working habits. Her friends proved she had been to supper with them, as she had related, and one and all expressed their amazement at the charge.

Mr. Huntley Palmer proposed to call more evidence to the same effect, but the Magistrate said he did not think it necessary. The evidence of the defence had put an entirely different complexion on the case. The accused was perfectly innocent of the charge, and was undeniably a most respectable young woman. At the same time he felt bound to say that the police officers had only done their duty, and had given their evidence very fairly. No doubt they had stated what they believed to be the truth. That they had erred was their misfortune, not their fault. It was perfectly marvellous that they did not make more mistakes of that nature, for young women really did speak to gentlemen now and then, even in the public street, and how was a poor policeman to know what they were talking about? The police had a very onerous duty to perform, and if they over-did it now and then he could not blame them. Therefore, the two constables would be discharged without a stain on their character.

Mr. Huntley Palmer: I beg your pardon, sir, but it is my client who is the defendant.

The Magistrate: Oh, of course, my mistake. She is discharged.

A NEW MAGISTRATE—COURTESIES IN COURT.

On taking his seat for the first time yesterday at the Gospel Street Court, Mr. Shudderquick was addressed by Mr. Arthur Makehaste, the senior solicitor, who, on behalf of his learned brethren and self, hoped the relations between the bench and the profession would be as amiable as they had always been.

Mr. Shudderquick said that was his hope. Birds of a feather always flocked together, and he should ever consider the interests of the lawyers, though justice must come first. They never came together.

The Brighton Express Disaster.—We have received many communications in reference to the article in last week's issue on this subject, and will deal with them next week.

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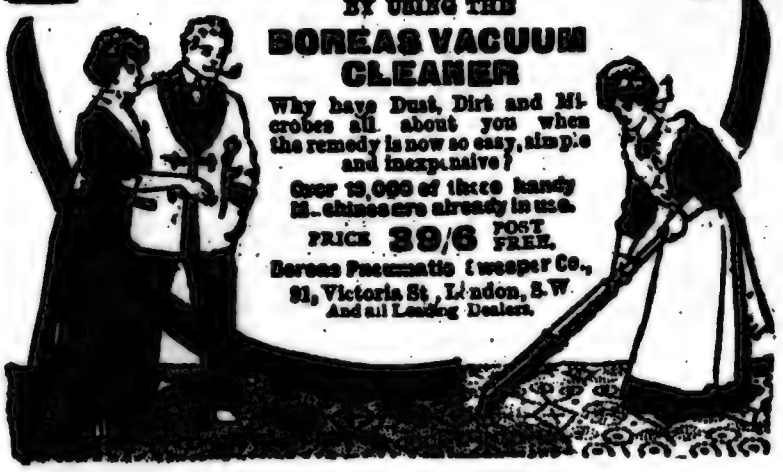

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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

THE LAW SOCIETY.

We have from time to time referred to cases in which this Society has been concerned, and where, as it seemed to us, they avoided their plain duty. We have now before us documents submitted by a barrister in support of his allegation that the Society refuses to examine the professional conduct of a solicitor, although our correspondent has put before it, in the form of affidavits, ample evidence to warrant and require such enquiry. An examination of these papers satisfies us that our correspondent has made out a strong *prima facie* case, and one which called for the immediate attention of the Society.

Our correspondent claimed property of great value. His claim was contested and legal proceedings followed. He alleges that in the course of these proceedings he forwarded large sums of money for the specific purpose of briefing eminent Counsel, including Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., and Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., and that instead of applying these monies to their proper purpose, the solicitor in question diverted them to his own use, with the result that Counsel did not appear and that witnesses were not present on the day of hearing.

Our correspondent, who is a confirmed invalid, further alleges that the solicitor in question acts with a man who some time ago was struck off the Rolls, and that in various ways connected with the case in question this solicitor has been guilty of grossly unprofessional conduct. He further informs us that when the case was before the Master of the Rolls, Sir H. Cozens-Hardy expressed a strong opinion in his favour, although technical defects prevented the case being fully heard. Other statements are made in the affidavits, calling upon the Law Society to institute an enquiry, which on their face disclose a strong case for investigation.

We express no opinion upon whether the very serious allegations made by our correspondent are provable or not. All we say, having heard only one side, is, that he has established a strong *prima facie* case against the solicitor in question, a case which if ultimately substantiated would mean his being struck off the Rolls; but the Law Society refuses to make enquiry. Here is a letter signed by Mr. Waller M. Sinclair, Clerk to the Committee :—

> Solicitors Act, 1888.
>
> Your application against a solicitor has been considered by the Committee, and I am desired to inform you that your affidavit does not disclose a case in which they can properly order an enquiry under the above Act, your remedy (if any) being of a civil character.

And in a further letter in reply to an additional affidavit, and a renewed application for enquiry, Mr. Sinclair writes in a similar strain.

It would appear, therefore, from Mr. Sinclair's letters, that a solicitor may be charged with most serious professional misconduct; with diverting monies handed to him for the purpose of briefing Counsel; with associating with disreputable persons and carrying on business with them, and with other actions of a disgraceful kind, and yet the Law Society does not consider it its duty to intervene; does not even think it necessary to call upon the incriminated solicitor for an explanation.

THOSE COMMISSIONERS AGAIN!

We recently remarked that Mr. Commissioner Horace Avory wanted looking after. And the same remark would also apply to Mr. Commissioner Scrutton. At the Newcastle Assizes on February 21st, a draper sued a commission agent for libel. Before Counsel for the Plaintiff had finished his opening, the Commissioner interrupted him by remarking, "People who mix themselves up with betting men have to take the consequences. I have great reluctance in having anything to do with the case. I am strongly of opinion that these Courts should not be used for adjudication upon a case which is brought indirectly, and which if it was brought directly would be kicked out of Court because of the Gaming Act." To which the Plaintiff's Counsel very properly replied: "Here is a man whose character has been attacked, and he is just as much entitled to come here and have his character cleared as anyone else." The learned Commissioner was so obsessed by the fact that the libel complained of orginated in a betting dispute that he must needs go out of his way to prejudice the minds of the jury. What airs these judicial understudies do give themselves!

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Referring to some remarks that appeared in a recent issue upon "Old Age Pensions in Jeopardy," a correspondent writes to point out, what is, we think, true, that the Poor Law disqualification is removed as from January 1st, 1911, and that a person can receive outdoor or indoor relief up to December 31st, 1910, inclusive, put in a claim on January 1st, 1911, and, being qualified in all other respects, cannot be refused under the clause of the Old Age Pensions Act of 1908. The point has been a controversial one, but enquiry and reference have shown that the Chancellor of the Exchequer said as much in answer to a question two or three months ago.

RILEY v. THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER CO.

Mr. Reed, the Chairman of the London National Cash Register Users' Protective Association writes :—

> I have read your article on the case of Riley *v.* The National Cash Register Co., Ltd., with much interest, but desire to correct your statements in one important detail. You allude to the action as a test case; the fact is that it was a purely individual one, and not in any sense a test case. Its weakness and unsuitability for being regarded as representative of the bulk of the complaints against the Company were pointed out by the committee of the Association I have the privilege of representing some months ago.

We agree with Mr. Reed that the case as against the Company was much less strong than many other cases in which action has been taken, but it is, nevertheless, a test case in the point of view of the Company, which went to considerable expense to bring it up from Accrington to be tried in London. We, however, agree with Mr. Reed that until one of the stronger cases in which his Association has interested itself is decided by judge and jury, the position of the Company towards its customers who bought their machines on the understanding that the price would not be reduced must remain in doubt.

THE CHARLESWORTH CASE.

The conviction of the Charlesworths, mother and daughter, was a foregone conclusion, and they richly deserve the punishment that has overtaken them. But the way in which Mr. Justice Darling wobbled over the sentence is not conducive to respect for the Bench. Upon the jury finding the prisoners guilty, Mr. Justice Darling sentenced both to five years' penal servitude. Next day he reduced these very severe sentences to three years. He had to give some sort of reason, and he gave several, none of which helped him much. (1) Miss Charlesworth "had not added to the enormity of the crime by going into the box and committing perjury." Whatever the plea is worth, it should have been as much in the mind of the judge in sentencing as afterwards. (2) The mother is very ill. Mrs. Charlesworth was not more ill the day after the trial than when she stood up to receive sentence. (3) "When he (the judge) passed sentence of five years' penal servitude on the prisoners he gave directions that it should not be recorded." Then why pass it?

LEGAL ANSWERS.

[Only questions of general interest will be answered in this column, and under no circumstances can replies be sent by post.]

Employment.—G. C.—You cannot recover the fee, as there was no agreement to find employment within a stated time.

Naturalisation.—German in Glasgow.—You should apply to the Home Office for the necessary form of application and certificates. The fees will be about £5.

Children Act.—G. M. G. (St. John's Wood).—If the passage entrance to the publichouse is shut off by doors from the bars, a child may stay there.

County Court Judgment.—S. M. (Kingskerswell).—The time runs from the date of the judgment, and it is the defendant's duty to make himself acquainted with the decision of the Court.

Compensation for Accident.—C. H. M. (Battersea).—You should apply to the Court and get a copy of the judgment, and then write to the employers asking what they have paid and to whom they have paid it. You should then go to another solicitor to demand the money from the persons to whom it has been paid. Wheatsheaf (Sheffield).—If the relation of employer and workman does not exist between you and the man who is working in your factory for another firm the company are not liable. We should advise you to communicate with the company and refuse to continue the contract unless they agree to cover every man whose wages are taken into account in calculating the amount that you pay as premium. You might inform them that as regards the existing contract the relation of master and man does not exist in the case of every man to whom you pay wages, and that unless they reply to the contrary within seven days you will so regard the contract and hold them bound by it.

Injunction.—R. E. S. (Middlesbro').—The writ has evidently been issued to stop the circulation of the bill, and all you can do is to defend it. You must engage a solicitor.

Income Tax.—A. G. (Rochester).—You are not entitled to any abatement for Income-tax in respect of the allowance you make to your mother.

Commission or Agents.—Principal Action.—It seems to us that you have a good case and that you should claim commission to the extent of the share due to you, irrespective of the other agents. You could not then be called on to divide with them what you recovered.

GREAT SUCCESS OF THE NEW 'HOME CLUB.'

More readers asked to join in a splendid scheme for adding to the value of home life and for improving "home" generally.

A SPLENDID FREE GIFT BOOK FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS EXPLAINS FULLY THE MOST CLEVER MODERN "HOME" IDEA.

What man or woman is there that does not believe that home may be the greatest of all business and social assets?

If there is such an one, he or she should awake to the fact that in neglecting the value of home they are perhaps throwing aside the opportunity of securing the best things of life.

The object of the "home club"—there is no entrance fee or subscription to pay—is to wake up the public to home value ideas.

Let us explain.

To take the case of women first. The woman who wishes to rise above her ordinary surroundings, who wishes to take a position of importance in her particular sphere, must realise that her home is her most valuable asset.

To have the home smart in appearance, to feel confident that under all conditions the most important of your friends can but envy or, at least, appreciate your establishment, is to have found the keynote to success.

A well-furnished home—which all members of the home club will have without the necessity for heavy purchasing—enables a lady to entertain in comfort those who are most useful to her and—this to married ladies—the husband's business friends, and are certain to appreciate the fact that he is building wholly for success.

No business man can really afford to be content with a badly furnished home. Think how invaluable it is to invite to the house those who in this commercial world may give the first push towards success.

The first announcement of the "home club" brought a list of members, for thousands realised that, provided it was possible to furnish or refurnish homes without heavy immediate outlay, it was good to join such a club.

As has been stated, this splendid idea is the outcome of careful thought by the directors of Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, the well-known furnishers of Tottenham Court Road. To put this idea at once on a practical basis they have inaugurated the scheme by an offer of an important gift book to all those who desire to join.

To any reader of JOHN BULL will be sent gratis and post paid, a large album, fully illustrated and giving rational, sensible ideas for rendering the home brighter, more cosy, and more comfortable.

Taking the matter up heart and soul, Wolfe and Hollander have devised a scheme whereby any member of the public may secure furniture in any quantity without the necessity of laying down large sums of money in payment thereof.

Avoiding the old-fashioned systems of those firms who live by credit alone, they allow any person to choose the goods required from their showrooms at cash prices and by simply adding 5 per cent. to the cost, payment over an extended period is arranged.

Supposing you desired £20 worth of furniture on the Wolfe and Hollander special system of deferred payment, the cost is but £21. In the same way £50 worth costs but £52 10s., and £100 costs but £105. Nothing can be more equitable than this.

To realise how comfortable a home can be made, it is only necessary to call at Wolfe and Hollander's palatial Tottenham Court Road premises or to send for the beautifully illustrated book, which the directors send free of charge.

Wolfe and Hollander have studied the art of furnishing thoroughly, and know exactly how to advise the man desiring to spend little, or the man who desires to spend much.

They can furnish a cosy cottage in plain but pleasing style, or fit throughout a baronial mansion. Their interesting free book shows how this may be done and all readers should make a note to send for a copy to-day.

For the convenience of those who desire to join the "Home Club," and who desire to secure a copy of the Wolfe and Hollander book, a coupon is appended, which should be carefully filled in and forwarded to the address given.

If you do not desire to cut your copy of JOHN BULL, you may apply for the free book by letter or postcard.

Send your name and address to Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, 252 to 256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., either in a letter or in the coupon below. The telegraphic address of the firm is "Wolfhol, London." Telephones, 1850 Gerrard, 14299 Central.

Coupon for Presentation Copy of New Illustrated Book.

To Messrs. WOLFE & HOLLANDER, 252-256, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W.C.

Dear Sirs,

Please forward me as per your offer one copy of your furniture book. This book is to be sent me free of charge, and you are to pay postage.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Date.....

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Admiral Field, C.B., Chairman, Licensing Sessions, Gosport.

Gallant Sir,—I had occasion last week to address a letter to a gentleman in a similar magisterial position to yourself, and I then pointed out to him how licensed victuallers were held up and badgered and threatened and hindered in the legitimate conduct of a legitimate business by legislators, local authorities, magistrates, and police alike. Now, sir, I note that you and your colleagues at Gosport are endeavouring to compel the various clubs within your jurisdiction to do something you have no authority in law to compel them to do in order to make reasonably certain of securing from you privileges which you have the right to refuse.

The particular case I have in mind, sir, is that of the Gosport and Alverstoke Liberal Club, on whose behalf application was made to the bench for a music and dancing licence. Any man in the street might suppose that you and those who sat with you would decide an application of that kind on its merits, yet the first question you asked was not whether the club could fairly claim and be reasonably granted a music and dancing licence for the social purposes of its members, but "Does this club still open on the Lord's Day during prohibited hours?" This sort of magisterial pressure is indefensible.

So far as you are personally concerned, as Chairman of the bench, Admiral, I have further to add that your attitude looks suspiciously like humbug. You are a member of the Carlton Club, and the Carlton Club not only opens all day on Sunday for the sale and consumption of beer, spirits, and wines, but for games. Will you please inform me whether on any occasion you have proposed to the committee of the Carlton that they should close on Sunday during Church hours? It may be that by a feat of mental gymnastics you can reconcile your indignation on the bench at Gosport with your placidity in an armchair of the Carlton, but most people will agree that you are disentitled to flaunt your "strong convictions" as a magistrate in the one place before you resign your membership of the other.

John Bull.

To T. W. H. Crosland, Esq., c/o "Academy."

Notorious Confrere,—I observe that you are angry with me for commenting upon your recent amazing acquittal—just as you did on mine a year ago. But I contented myself with pointing out that the jury probably attached very little importance to a libel coming from you—although I might have adopted the other alternative that they were mad. And I note that, unlike myself, you took a holiday after the case. I took mine whilst the case was on! But I digress. After comparing yourself to a "new babe" and "a toad," both appropriately uninviting, you exclaim:—

"I had as leave be damned as prosper thus—
Give me my pack, give me my terrible road."

I cannot, in these bad times, afford to give you a pack, but I offer a prize of a penny to anyone who succeeds in scanning this doggerel.

But I am no authority on poetry, for you announce there is "not a single person concerned with John Bull who is able even to give a definition of what a sonnet is." You are quite right—and therefore I fall back upon the opinion of Dr. Johnson that sonnets are "not very suitable to the English language," and that the words sonnetteer, sonneter, sonnetist, and sonnet-writer denote "a small poet, in contempt." With fraternal greetings,

John Bull.

To the Chairman, Board of Guardians, Brighton.

Dear Chairman,—In reading some recent proceedings of your illustrious Board, I find that the Guardians have decided that in future no inmate of the Union whose pension is appropriated is to be supplied with tobacco. By this decision, I understand they will be able to save the ratepayers £2 13s. 8d. per week. Am I to understand that what Brighton saves on 'bacca it intends to spend on *Dreadnoughts?*

John Bull.

To Bailie Watson, Police Court, Ayr, N.B.

Sir,—Of judicial blundering, carelessness, and neglect, to say nothing of injustice, it would be difficult to cite a more flagrant example than is afforded by a case in which the Ayr police have combined with you to illustrate what you can really do between you when you try. A labourer, known to be a thief, was arrested by a plain-clothes officer for being in possession of a blue serge jacket not belonging to him, though he protested that the garment had been given to him, and that he could take the officer to the house where he had received it. The man was brought before you, sir, and as he still protested his innocence, you remanded him until the following morning for the officer to test the statement. Again the case came up, again the police were without proof, and again you adjourned it for two days. At the next hearing it was still in the same position, for the police had done nothing, but by this time you were apparently tired of the business, and had decided that if the man said one thing and the police another the man must be a liar and the police the infallible witnesses of truth; so you sentenced the prisoner, with his protestations of innocence ringing in your ears, to a fine of £5, or 60 days. Not being able to pay the money, the man went down to do his 60 days.

But not meekly, sir. Conscious that on this charge he had been wrongfully arrested and unfairly judged and sentenced, he continued to protest even in prison, and refused to conform to the rules. The result was that a clergyman was brought in to pacify him. Into that clergyman's ears the man poured his story as he had poured it into the ears of the police and of yourself. But instead of doing nothing, the clergyman constituted himself a Sherlock Holmes for the time being, did the work which the police neglected, discovered the house at which the man said he had received the jacket, ascertained from those living there that the prisoner's statement was true, acquainted the authorities with the result of his inquiries, and produced a declaration from the householder who had given the jacket. This done, sir, I admit that you procured the man's release with all speed, though by this time he had been in prison some days. But for that clergyman, there is no doubt the man would have had to serve his full time.

Look at the case from what point of view I may, I can find neither excuse nor condonation for this shameful miscarriage of justice. There was not a particle of evidence against the man, and because the police would not avail themselves of the two opportunities you gave them of confirming his story, you convicted him on the mere allegation of a detective's suspicion. On the whole, you had better get off the seat of judgment at Ayr and stay off, for it is impossible to believe that after this you can be in possession of the public confidence. As for the part the police played in the matter, it is both scandalous and contemptible, and if the burghers of Ayr can stand it without demanding strict official investigation, they can stand anything.

John Bull.

To Judge Smyly, K.C., County Court, Shoreditch.

My Dear Judge,—You are reported as saying in court the other day, "I cannot think why anybody gives credit to a husband alone: you are sure to be done if you do." That's all very well in a way; but are you sure you won't be done if you don't?

John Bull.

Sir Henry Dalziel, M.P.

Congratulations on renewed Parliamentary activity. Any truth in rumour Lloyd George may shortly join you again—as in the old days? Rub it in. Nothing like—rubber, eh?

Bull.

Lord Carrington, Board of Agriculture.

Glad to learn of vigorous action in regard to trade in worn-out horses. But are you sure that many of them don't come back?

Bull.

Winston Churchill, Home Office, Whitehall.

Any truth in report that you have dissolved partnership with your Celtic colleague? Never thought you would run long in double harness.

Bull.

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

BALFOUR: "HA, HA! YOU NEVER SAID YOU WOULDN'T TAKE OFFICE WITHOUT GUARANTEES, DID YOU, ASQUITH!"
ASQUITH: "CERTAINLY NOT, ARTHUR! AND YOU NEVER SAID THAT TARIFF REFORM WOULD CURE UNEMPLOYMENT, DID YOU!"
BALFOUR: "OF COURSE NOT! WE'VE BOTH BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

Money remains cheap and abundant, and discount is no higher than 2⅛ per cent. Even when with Parliamentary sanction the taxes are gathered, funds will remain ample. The Rubber Boom is still the feature of the stock markets, but Rhodesians are now also in the running, and Oil shares have their boomlet. In Foreign stocks, *Japanese* are improving on conversion prospects, and *Peru Prefs.*, which I have strongly recommended, are up at about 39 in view of the imminent Government loan. *Consols* and other gilt-edged stocks, however, are weak on the Parliamentary impasse, which also affects *Home Rails*, and *American Rails* are out of favour owing to President Taft's attitude. Amongst the other Mining share markets *Kaffirs* and *West Africans* should be the next to brace up.

Rubber Boom in Full Swing—High-class Shares Again Hoisted—'Ware New Issues.

The Rubber Boom has become more sensational than ever, and the scene in the market is almost indescribable, jobbers and brokers jostling each other in a dense throng. The demand has chiefly turned upon the high-class producing companies, which is right enough, if they were not already so high up. I consider *Selangors, Inch Kenneth, Vallambrosa, Pataling, Kuala Lumpur, Sekong, Sapumolcande, Linggi, Cicely, Highlands,* and *Sumatra Para* (in the order named) as the very best, but there must, after all, be a limit to the rise, and all these have, since last week's table, advanced from 5s. to £2. *Straits (Bertam)* have taken a jump, on being split, and the 2s. shares are up at 10s. or the equivalent of £5 per £1 share, against 72s. 6d. ten days ago, and 33s. when I first recommended them. This is, to say the least of it, an excessive rise, and so is, to my mind, the further advance in *Rubber Plantation Investment Trusts* to 52s. 6d. premium. *Molesworth Brothers* are still cheap, in comparison with others, at 4s. 9d. to 5s., while *Ivory Coasts* have potentialities even at the advanced price of 1⅛ premium. *West Jequié* are fair value at 5s. premium (but the special settlement is close at hand) even though Jequié at 13s. are now too dear, and the price of *Madagascar Participating Prefs.* at 25 premium is also prohibitive. A correspondent writes to complain that Rubber directors "do not play the game" because he got no allotment in a recent issue. Perhaps one day he will thank his stars that he did not get it, as many of the recent issues are most undesirable. Not so the *Nyassa Rubber Company*, which is already subscribed for in advance by those connected with it, although the issue is £150,000, and which will no doubt be wanted by others at considerable premiums.

Rhodesians Join the Fray—A Few Sensational Upward Movements Set the Whole Market Going.

In addition to the Rubber and Oil share "Booms," an upward movement is in progress in the Rhodesian market which may easily develop into a Boom. At all events, all conditions are given for an appreciation in the properties. The *Chartered* Report was, as I stated last week, distinctly encouraging, and Monday's meeting created a favourable impression. But it was in some of the mines, where rich discoveries were made, that the sensational advances occurred. Thus *Surprise* jumped in one day from 25s 6d. to 45s., and are now quoted 2½. *Globe and Phœnix* took a few months to gain £2. The following table, showing the movements since last year and also for the past week, will prove of interest:—

Name.	Price, May 25, 1909.	Price, Oct. 15, 1909.	Price Feb. 22, 1910.	Present Price.
Amal. Prop. of Rhodesia	—	8s. 3d.	7s.	10s. 3d.
Antelope	1½	1 1-16	1	1 1-16
Bechuanaland Exploration	13s.	13s. 6d.	11s.	13s.
Chartered B.S.A.	26s.	2 1-16	1½	1 13-16
Chicago Gaika	7-16	12s. 6d.	12s.	14s. 6d.
Eldorado Banket	3 13-16	3⅛	3 9-16	3 11-16
Enterprise	2⅛	4⅛	3⅛	3⅞
Etna Development	—	16s. 6d.	19s. 3d.	1⅛
Exp. Land and Minerals	—	—	9s. 9d.	12s. 6d.
Giant Mines of Rhodesia	4⅛	6 3-16	5⅛	5 11-16
Gaika Gold	9s.	1 3-16	1⅛	1 7-16
Globe and Phœnix	3 1-16	5 9-16	7⅛	7⅛
Jumbo Gold	22s. 6d.	24s.	17s.	18s.
Mashonaland Agency	14s.	15s.	16s. 6d.	17s. 6d.
Northern Copper	19s. 6d.	20s.	16s.	17s.
Rezenda	—	—	2 3-16	2⅛
Rhodesia Banket	2 13-16	2⅞	2⅛	2⅛
Rhodesia Exploration	2 3-16	2 11-16	2⅛	2 11-16
Scottish Mashonaland	17s. 6d.	1⅛	20s.	21s. 6d.
Selukwe	4s.	9s. 6d.	6s.	8s.
Selukwe Columbia	—	1⅞	1⅛	1 11-16
Surprise	7s. 6d.	9s. 6d.	25s. 6d.	2 1-16
Tanganyika Concessions	5 5-16	6⅛	6 5-16	6⅞
Wanderer (Selukwe)	7s. 6d.	5s.	4s. 9d.	6s. 6d.
Willoughby Consols	13s. 3d.	13s. 6d.	14s. 6d.	16s. 9d

A number of these companies have recently been reconstructed, and it is, of course, well known that besides the *Cons. Goldfields* and Mr. Abe Bailey, Messrs. Lewis and Marks and Albu have of late taken a large interest in Rhodesian properties. One of the most promising companies is the *Exploring Land and Minerals*, which is, after protracted litigation, now in indisputed possession of its valuable properties, comprising 900 square miles of farming land and mining rights over 75 square miles of richly mineralised land in the neighbourhood of the *Globe and Phœnix Mine*. These shares will doubtless rise to a higher figure than their present price of 13s. Amongst Mr. Abe Bailey's properties *Etna Development* have advanced sharply, while others are *Amalgamated of Rhodesia, Antelope, Eldorado Banket, Rhodesia Banket*, and *Selukwe Colombia*. But that gentleman knows how to keep his secrets until he suddenly comes out with a drastic movement. Just now he is bringing out a new Shamwa Trust, but there are rather doubtful rumours current concerning the neighbouring claims in the Abercorn district. The General Mining and Finance Company have acquired a 75 per cent. interest in the Beatrice Mine, and Messrs. Lewis and Marks are about to issue some new Rhodesian properties recently acquired.

Kaffirs Quiet—Jungles Waiting—Australians Steadier.

There has been some selling of high-class Kaffir shares for providing money to pay for Rubber shares, which has kept Kaffirs quiet, although advices from Johannesburg are most encouraging both concerning profits and native labour. But there has been a strong French demand for *Randfontein Central* at 2 7-16 and *Randfontein South* at 2 5-16, ex. the dividend of 2s. In West Africans a movement is quietly preparing. *Gold Coast Amalgamated* have relapsed to 4⅛, and *Prestea Block "A"* are firmer now that the new capital issue is fixed up. The *Ashanti Goldfields* are issuing a new subsidiary, the Ashanti Territories. On the *New Axim* the new reef is 2ft. 5in. wide, value 15dwts. per ton. In West Australians *Ivanhoe* have advanced to 8½, and *London, Australian and General Exploration* have improved to 6s. 6d. on the company's interest in the Maikop Oilfield. *Gwalia Prop.* have improved to 4s. 6d. on the further cable from the manager stating that the lode has widened to 12ft., and that there is upon the whole great improvement.

Oil Shares Rally Strongly After a Set-Back—The Maikop Oilfield.

After rivalling for a short period the neighbouring Rubber market in sensational movements, Oil shares had a smart set-back thus early in the boomlet's history, but this has been promptly recovered again. *Standard Oil of Mexico* "A" shares, to which I have already drawn attention, rose at one time to 9s. 6d., relapsed to 7s. 6d., and recovered to 8s.—8s. 6d. I pointed out the discrepancy in the prices of the "A" and "B" shares last week; the value of the latter should be five times that of "A's," whereas it is only 30s. I do not see how there can be much rise in the shares of the old companies, such as *Burmah, Shell Transport*, etc., as there is not likely to be an appreciation in oil, and by far the best prospects are those in connection with the newly discovered oilfields, not, perhaps, the group of Californian oilfields, such as *Pacifics*, etc., but the Maikop oilfield. The *Spies Petroleum Company* has formed a subsidiary company—the *Maikop Spies Company*, capitalised at £260,000—but further development work is to be carried out before the public is to be asked to subscribe. There are various other Maikop syndicates, or companies, and a good deal of interest attaches to the visit to the field of Mr. C. A. Moreing, the well-known engineer. Already many of the companies with which his firm is associated, notably the *London, Australian and General Exploration*, the *Lake View*, the *Australian* and other deep leads companies, have a stake in this field, and any readers wishing to take a hand in oil shares should closely watch developments on the Maikop.

NEW ISSUES.

Law Car and General Insurance Corporation, Ltd.

Subscriptions are invited for an additional 60,000 Ordinary £1 shares of this Corporation at a premium of 10s. per share. These shares, when paid up, carry no uncalled liability, and will rank *pari passu* with the existing shares and will carry full dividend as from date of allotment. The Corporation transacts all classes of insurance business except life, but the directors now propose to include the latter, for which they possess special facilities. The subscription list will close on or before March 4th.

FARROW'S BANK.

It is remarkable how this institution is going ahead. One hears of it everywhere. The latest branch is at Hackney, and already the manager, Mr. Cudmore—who has forced his way to the position by sheer dint of ability—is busy opening accounts.

JOINT STOCK TRUST.

We repeat our advice to shareholders in this company to have nothing to do with Carter and Bell, the touting solicitors of Idol Lane. Whatever assurance may be given as to expenses, let the shareholders clearly understand that they cannot escape the risk of liability for the costs of the other side in any unsuccessful proceedings.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 8, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

CONTINENTAL LOTTERIES.—BATHSTONE.—(1) I should advise you *not* to take this opportunity. (2) The Hamburg Lottery is quite *bonâ fide*, but obviously I do not know whether you will draw a prize or not. The objection is, as I have previously explained, that one cannot be certain of the intermediaries, who are mostly shady. The documents are returned.

RUBBER EXPLORATION.—H. W.—Hold. Some very favourable news will be announced in about a month's time, and you are likely to get a much higher price.

ANGULAR HOLE MACHINE COMPANY.—E. R. L.—No news available, and no market for the shares. Why not write to the Secretary, and ask him for the price?

RUBBER QUOTATION.—D. P. (Bexhill).—The price of Molesworth Brothers is now 4s. 8d., and you will find them quoted every day in *The Financial News* and other dailies.

£1,000 FOR INVESTMENT.—A. E. F.—You are quite right in your views, and should invest the £1,000 as follows, all being gilt-edged securities, and yielding up to 3¼ per cent. per annum: Transvaal Guaranteed 3 per cent., at 95⅝; London County 3 per cent., at 80; Port of London "A" 3 per cent., at 82; Cape of Good Hope 3 per cent. Inscribed, at 86½; Western Australian 3½ per cent. Inscribed, at 98. I send what you require

FOUR INVESTMENTS.—G. H. W.—(1) Yes, you had better sell these; their weakness of late is not reassuring. (2) A fair holding, but not gilt-edged. (3) Ditto. (4) Western Canada Lands are promising amongst Canadian land issues. If you want other investments, consult the list given to "A. E. F." above.

TRUNKS.—MEGRIM.—The point is that the Grand Trunk is known to be in want of further capital, £2,000,000 being the amount mentioned. This may either be announced in the forthcoming Directors' report, or at the meeting. However, prospects certainly look brighter now, in view of the splendid traffics being reported, and if you are a holder you should not sell at the present juncture.

VAAL RIVER GOLDFIELDS.—G. A. R.—These shares have only declined in sympathy with others of the same kind. When the Kaffir Circus generally improves, and that should not be far off now, they will probably also go better, when you should sell.

£400 FOR INVESTMENT.—WHITE STAR.—If safety is the first consideration, none of the stocks you mention fulfil this requirement. Why not go into some of the securities mentioned in reply to "A. E. F." above?

COATS.—ROSEMOUNT.—Coats now stand at such a high level, that I hesitate to advise their purchase. At the same time, the position of the concern is so strong, that I do not think the price will decline to any extent. You can, however, do better in other descriptions, and should consult my notes. If, however, you state what yield would satisfy you, I should be pleased to specially mention some suitable stocks.

BOULDER PERSEVERANCE.—A fair low-priced Westralian share, which, however, in consequence of the recent fire in the mine, has a good deal of leeway to make up. There is a prospect eventually of the concern being included in some combine, especially if the Lake View Consols—Hannans Star amalgamation accomplishes its purpose.

MIDDLETON GOLD REEF.—EKINS.—I regret being unable to give you any information regarding this concern, which does not even appear in the usual books of reference.

KAMUNING, LENA, LAHAT.—SADIE.—(1) Kamuning have had a good rise, but they may be given a further run. Personally, I prefer Molesworths. (2) These have also had a substantial advance, and Kaffirs certainly look cheaper. (3) I am not predisposed to Lahat, and also prefer South Africans to them.

VARIOUS QUERIES.—POMP.—(1) With regard to this Trust, see reply to "J. E. G." above. (2) Yes, gilt-edged securities, such as are mentioned to "A. E. F." (3) I send you, as requested, the address of a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who make a speciality of Premium Bonds.

NATIONAL THEATRE DE LUXE.—PENSIF.—I should be sorry to vouch for the permanent prosperity of this concern, which does not appear in the usual works of reference, and if you take shares in part payment, you must regard the transaction as a pure speculation. Personally, I should prefer the cash.

BONDS BY INSTALMENTS.—G. M.—As I tell other correspondents, the question to be considered is whether the money can be got when it may be required. I do not say anything against this concern in particular, but you will doubtless see my point. That is why I advise purchase of realisable securities instead. The document is returned in your envelope.

FLOATING A COMPANY.—G. B. (Ipswich).—It is obviously necessary to know what kind of concern it is which you wish to float. Moreover, the amount of £7,000 to £10,000 is rather too small for forming a Limited Company in the ordinary sense of the word, as no company with a smaller capital than £50,000 can be quoted on the Stock Exchange.

£600 FOR INVESTMENT.—HOTEL WAITER.—(1) J. Lyons and Co. 4½ per cent. Debenture stock, at 107. (2) Vickers and Maxim 4½ Second Mortgage Debentures, at 103. (3) Alberta Railway 4 per cent. Prior Lien Debenture, at 102. (4) Peruvian Corporation 6 per cent. Debentures, at 104: and Van Ryn Gold Mines.

BUILDING SOCIETY.—DILLWYN.—I really think you would do better by investing this money in sound securities. You can get the same yield, will be much safer, and can sell out when you like, which you cannot do in the case of Building Societies.

RANDFONTEIN SHARES, ETC.—BLANK NEWRAD.—Azim and Tarkwa Goldfields (1) is a fair West African mining risk. Randfontein and South Randfontein (2 and 3) are excellent value, in view of the remarkable progress of the two large subsidiaries, which will commence crushing on a large scale, in the course of this year. (4) You might exchange No. 2 into Randfontein Central, the other large subsidiary of the Randfontein Estates, which will commence crushing at the end of this year, and will be one of the largest producers and dividend payers on the Rand. (5) An interim dividend will probably be paid in July, and a final dividend in January. (6) I believe they are respectable, but they are outside brokers. What you require has been forwarded to you.

RUBBER SHARES.—HYDROCARBON.—A cheap Rubber share likely to improve is Molesworth Brothers 2s. shares, at 4s. 8d.; and another share likely to improve further is Ivory Coast Rubber £1 shares, at 1 premium, for special settlement.

BENONI, ETC.—B. C. (Christchurch).—(1) Benoni Gold Mines are fair value, and are now in course of development. Whiteley 4½ p.c. Preference shares stand at ⅞. They have not all found a home yet with investors, and are therefore at a comparatively low price. I do not care for No. 3. I am afraid I cannot encourage you in your intention of doing business with outside brokers, on the terms you mention.

EXPLORING LAND AND MINERALS.—BERT.—(1) Prospects of Exploring Land and Minerals, Transvaal Estates and Development (2). Daggafontein Gold (3) are favourable, and whenever the Kaffir Circus moves generally they will doubtless improve, but you will have to have some patience.

STOCK EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS.—DENT (Leamington).—I really cannot make myself answerable for information about outside brokers. (2) No, unless you agreed to be liable for more when that is lost. (3) Messrs. Effingham Wilson, of 1, Royal Exchange Buildings, E.C., publish this kind of book.

OUTSIDE BROKERS' CIRCULARS.—AULD REEKIE.—Whenever you receive circulars from strange firms, you can assume that these are outside brokers, and what they offer you, generally is not worth having. I should say in your case it should be "once bitten, twice shy." What you require has been forwarded.

AMERICAN RAILS IN SMALL ORDERS.—THORNCLIFFE.—What you require has been forwarded. The firm no doubt will buy the quantities of Home Rails and American Rails, which you suggest. (2) Yes. (3) This is not advisable. (4) Certainly.

LOAN OF £550.—NURSE.—I am afraid it would not be possible to obtain this in the City, neither would they advance so much on the security. You might advertise in the *Times*.

HOUSE PURCHASE CONCERN.—BUTCHER (Bexley).—I do not like the look of this, and should advise you to clear out at once, and not to have any more dealings with them. In case of need, you will have to employ a solicitor to get rid of this connection.

PEARKS.—MUSTARD.—The severe competition is affecting all the companies in this line of business. (1) No. (2) You might risk this, unless you get a favourable opportunity to clear out in the meantime. (3) Not very high. (4) Molesworth Rubbers should suit you.

BEAUFORT MOTOR.—CYMRO.—The company is still in existence, and for thirteen months to December 31, 1907, suffered a loss of nearly £17,000. The accounts for the past year are not yet available, but will apparently be equally unfavourable. Why not try and get into communication with other shareholders, so as to bring pressure upon the Board to disclose the present position of the company.

PLYMOUTHIAN.—Yes, Maypole Preferred are a good holding amongst Industrials, also Japanese Four per Cents. at 96; Peruvian Corporation 6 per cent. Debentures, at 104; Brazilian Rescission 4 per cent. Bonds, at 90. As regards cheap Rubber shares, I know of none more attractive at present than Molesworth Brothers. What you require has been forwarded in your envelope.

SOUTH WESTERN DEFERRED—ABNORMAL.—Certainly hold South Western Deferred. The prospects of the company have seldom been brighter, in view of the coming working agreement with the Great Western, and also the important dock developments at Southampton.

RUBBERS, MINES.—COJITO.—What you require has been sent in your envelope. (1) No one was ever ruined by taking a substantial profit. (2) Ditto. (4) Both Randfontein Central and Souths are very promising, and likely to improve, but it is impossible to say which will show the greatest rate of advance during the next twelve months.

KAFFIRS, PACIFICS—R. H.—(1) Hold Daggafontein Gold, which should go better directly the Kaffir Circus as a whole plucks up courage again. (2) Ditto as regards Western Rand Estates. (3) New Kleinfontein are a good holding, and the transaction in question should further strengthen its position. (4) You are quite right in what you say regarding the Buenos Ayres and Pacifics, and might, with advantage, wait awhile, especially as latest cables from the Argentine advise considerable damage to the maize crop by locusts.

GLIDO.—CARHOLME.—I commend your prudence in making inquiries first, and I will prevent you buying a pig in a poke by informing you that the concern does not even appear in the usual books of reference, and, of course, there is no market whatever for the shares.

£200 FOR INVESTMENT.—You can get over £3 3s. per cent. per annum in Transvaal Guaranteed 3 per cent.; £3 13s. in Port of London "A" 3 per cent.; and £3 12s. per cent. in Western Australian 3½ per cent. I send what you require in your envelope.

CANADIAN RAILS, ETC.—W. R. (Co. Down).—I think very highly of the outlook for Canadian Pacifics, and latest developments in connection with Grand Trunks have induced me to take a less unfavourable view of their prospects also. The numbers of Foreign Bonds drawn are usually advertised in the daily Press, and in the *Times* in particular. Molesworths are very promising, but are some way yet from the dividend stage. What you require has been forwarded in your envelope.

LOCAL BUILDING SOCIETY.—VETO (Newport).—The chief advantage to be gained by incorporating the Society under the Companies' Act is the limitation of liability on the part of those interested, and, upon the whole, I think the idea would be a good one.

INDUSTRIAL CONCERN.—J. B. (East Grinstead).—My candid opinion on the concern in question is the reverse of favourable, and I strongly advise you not to embark any money in it, or you will regret it.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.—CAPONE.—You might sell Consols and the electric shares, as well as the Great Central stock, as you require immediate dividend-payers. You should hold Great Eastern, but instead of buying more of this stock, acquire some South Eastern Preferred. Nundydroog are about high enough, but some of the Kaffir dividend-payers are now obtainable at attractive prices, such as Van Ryn, at 4⅛; Nourse Mines, at 3 3-16; Randfontein Central, at 2⅜; or Randfontein South, at 2⅜.

NEW WHEAL ELIZA, ETC.—JACLEF.—Nothing satisfactory is to be learnt with regard to the Cornish Mining Company, which has evidently not achieved anything yet, and Nos. 2 and 3 are merely financial syndicates of no importance. I should advise you to keep your money in your pocket. As regards Premium Bonds, I send you the name and address of a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, who make a speciality of these, and who also will be able to give you the results of drawings.

COLLIERY CONCERNS.—EROOM.—No business is done in these shares in London, and you know as much as I do about these concerns, if not more. Why not communicate with some of your fellow shareholders, and get their views on the matter?

Australian Govnr. Estates.—Mack.—These would be a fair Industrial shareholding, if there were a regular market in them, which is not the case at present.

Various Shares.—M. McG.—Hold the Industrial shares, and also Harmony Props., but sell the others if you can. Wankie Coal may, however, come to the front again presently, along with other Rhodesians.

Oil and Rubber.—A. B. C.—(1) After the big rise which has taken place, it would be advisable to await a reaction. (2) You should do well with Molesworth Rubber.

Northern Nigerian Tin.—Beta.—I do not care much for these shares. You can do better in the Kaffir, Rhodesian, and West African sections.

Duff House.—Deveron.—This is obviously a very speculative concern, but there is nothing to be said against the proposed rearrangement of the share capital.

Boulders, Simmer Deep.—Hector.—From the dividend point of view, Great Boulders, which pay 9d. per share per quarter, would be the best to buy. Simmer Deep are promising, but it is impossible to say when dividend payments will commence.

Komati (Transvaal) Goldfields.—Wellington.—I am not enamoured of this concern, and would advise you to take a favourable opportunity to sell out.

Rubbers, Americans.—Askra.—(1) These Rubbers are still as good as any. (2) I do not look for any substantial upward movement in Americans for the present.

Small Investment.—Slowcoach (Pimlico).—Your best plan would be to put the amount into gilt-edged Colonial Government Bonds, Western Australian 3½ per cent., for instance, quoted at under 99. Of course, deal only with a member of the Stock Exchange.

United Realisation Company.—J. W. W.—There is no market for the shares, and the fact that it had a debit balance on October 31st, 1908, of nearly £308,000, does not by any means look encouraging.

Rubber Shares.—Paddy.—You paid rather high for the rubber shares, Nos. 1 to 4, but should see a profit on them in time. You have also left it very late with regard to Ivory Coast Rubbers, although these may go still higher.

Various Speculations.—A. A. (Kilburn.)—(1) You will have to wait a long time for tangible results. (2) Yes, Prestea Mines are still a good purchase at 9s. 6d. for the 7s. 6d. share. (3) Yes, but you have left it too long; they do no pay any dividends yet.

Spencer Santo.—G. A. R. (Alntree).—They are officially quoted at 1-16 to 3-16, so that I am afraid you will get very little of your money back.

Industrials, Etc.—Tersan.—(1) United Alkali and Imperial Tobacco are fair Industrial holdings, but there is not much room for capital appreciation. The former has just declared a dividend of 4s. per share. (2) A good mining holding, but about high enough. (3) Yes, especially on any reaction. (4) Rand Collieries (Gold) have excellent prospects, and a purchase should yield good results eventually.

Five Per Cent. Investment.—J.P.—You cannot get an absolutely safe 5 per cent. investment, and Beyer Peacock certainly do not come within this category, although the company is doing better. A promising holding would be South Eastern Railway Preferred, which got 5½ per cent. for the past year, and is quoted at 108.

Directors' Liability.—D. J.—This is a question for a solicitor to answer.

New Industrial.—Bitten.—As the company is only in the early stages of its career, it is, of course, difficult to judge whether it will prove a success or not, but I think you can be compelled to pay up the calls as they are made. If you do not wish to hold, you must wait until a market is made in the shares, and then sell.

Broker.—G. H. H.—What you require has been forwarded in your envelope. You will have to wait for payment until a special settlement has been granted in the shares.

Standard Oil of Mexico.—R. E.—I am glad you acted so promptly on my information. There certainly are considerable possibilities in the company.

Estate Company.—J. E. B. (Hammersmith).—It is very difficult to obtain reliable information about such small estate companies; but, personally, I should not care to embark any money in it.

New Industrial.—Sidelight.—The company has already been issued and gone to allotment, so that if you want to buy the shares you will have to do so through a broker. The prospectus was advertised in the Press.

South Atlantic Trading Company.—Woodcock.—The concern does not even appear in the usual works of reference. No information is available regarding its position, and I should be sorry to identify myself with it.

Oil Share.—Matthew.—When you speculate, do so only in well-established and marketable shares, which is not the case with the concern in question.

Fishery Business.—A. S.—No information is available with regard to this business, but if you have any concern for the safety of your money, take *Punch's* advice—"Don't."

Small Bank.—Redhill, Caxton.—Only for small amounts. High rates of interest are not compatible with absolute safety.

Outside Brokers.—Lex (Edinburgh), M. S. P.—Outside brokers, all of a more or less doubtful character. You must be aware by this time that I advise dealing only through members of the Stock Exchange.

Building Society.—A. G. N. (Elgin Avenue).—With regard to the building society in question, I have made further inquiries, and I should think you had better realise, the more so as you had the shares given to you.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

Canadian Insurance Company.—Investor (Gillingham).—We do not know any company of the name you give of standing and doing business in this country.

United Provident Assurance Company.—S. D. (Oldham).—(1) We should sell if you can get a buyer. (2) Not unless you agree. (3) We think so. (4) It is impossible to answer the question. Obviously the company, now in its tenth year, has not made much headway.

Purchase of Annuity.—A. B. (Glasgow).—For the sum named, the lady's age being 58, you should get an annuity of, roughly, £90

Stability of Company.—H. W. J. (Rhyl).—(1) Yes. (2) The authorised capital is £100,000, of which £18,730 is paid up. (3) The stipulation in your policy is put there for prudential reasons. It relieves the company of any responsibility for not making advances should there be no available funds. (4) Presumably it amalgamated with the larger company because it thought it was to its advantage to do so—as, indeed, it was.

Surrender Value.—Lantel (Worcester Park).—It all depends, of course, upon whether a sound society takes over what there is to take of the company in which you were insured. We will make some enquiries and refer to the matter again next week.

Standing of Company.—F. N. (Maidstone).—It is among the best, with a first-rate record as to bonuses.

Insurable Interest.—W. B. S. (Manchester).—The Act of last year sensibly alters the position, but your better way would be to put the facts before the Pearl Insurance Company, and try to come to an arrangement, as no doubt you can, which will avoid complications in the future. X. M. (London).—We are obliged to you for your letter. Yes, Section 11 of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, enables a married woman to effect a policy on the life of her husband for her separate use. Irrespective of any insurable interest such as is required under the terms of the Gambling Act.

COLLUSIVE AUCTION SALES.

HOW POOR PEOPLE ARE DEFRAUDED.

A well-known West-end firm writes us:—

"We should like to bring to your notice a matter we consider highly important, and of which Parliament should take some cognizance. We can vouch for the facts we are giving you.

"A distraint was made in Cricklewood for £10, and the cost of levy and man in possession (several days) was £4 4s. The tenant not being able to pay, the distraining broker removed goods one day and they were disposed of at a local night auction on the following evening without any chance of advertising. Amongst the goods was a piano that had been supplied but a month at 30 guineas, a drawing-room suite at 11 guineas, and a walnut sideboard at 8 guineas. The whole of these were sold without reserve by auction, and realised £15 13s., whereas that should have been about the price that the piano alone ought to have realised.

"You can understand how hard this kind of thing hits people in poor or impecunious circumstances. Certainly it would be of great benefit to the public at large if a law were passed that goods distrained on and removed for sale by auction should be sent to some well-known firm for sale in the daytime and not be slaughtered in this manner. Such firms could no doubt be appointed by the Board of Trade."

FOOTBALL BLACK LIST.

We have received complaints of the following football firms:—

J. R. Adams, Flushing, Holland.
Thomas Allden, Flushing, Holland.
A. Bray, Flushing, Holland.
W. E. Betts and Co., Flushing, Holland.
Arthur Burgess, Flushing, Holland.
Barasford and Smyth, 4, Broadway, Hammersmith.
George Braham, Flushing, Holland.
Arthur Briggs, Middelburg, Holland, and 321, Church Road, Leyton.
A. A. Burchall, Flushing, Holland.
W. and A. Dew and Co., Flushing, Holland.
H. Diamond, Middelburg.
Football Syndicate, Flushing, Holland.
Fo. Goodman and Co., 7, Droogdok, Flushing, Holland, and Brown Street, Manchester.
Charles G. Gardener, Flushing, Holland.
Leonard Long, Flushing, Holland.
Walter Searle, King William Street, E.C., and Flushing.
W. Wallis, Flushing, Holland.
George Waring, Flushing, Holland.
R. Westbrooke and Co., Flushing, Holland.
Arthur Williams, Flushing, Holland.
Charles Owens, Flushing, Holland.
Reid Brothers, 36, Hackford Road, Brixton.

THE L. AND N.W. RAILWAY CO. AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

We have received complaints from some of the men employed by this Company in which they say that the Company is not observing the terms of the recent award. Here is what one man says:—

(1) According to the award men working overtime are to be paid time and a quarter, but in many cases they are not. Say a man works two hours over his time, the Company are in the habit of making him leave off early, half-an-hour each day, to rub that time off, so that he gets paid nothing extra.

(2) The award has decided that men doing Sunday work should be paid at the rate of time and a half, but here again, our correspondent says, terms are not kept. A man comes in on Sunday morning at 6 a.m., and working up to 8 p.m. only receives the ordinary rate of wages.

And there is complaint made as to the time allowed for meals and rest.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page iii. of Cover.

The Subscription List will open on 1st March, 1910 and close on or before 4th March, 1910.

No part of this Issue has been, or will be, underwritten.

THIS PROSPECTUS HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

LAW CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

Registered Office: 4, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, LONDON, E.C.

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 to 1900.)

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - £350,000.

Divided into 350,000 Shares of £1 each. Issued Capital, £244,168.

Issue of an additional *60,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each*, at a premium of *10/-* per Share, payable as follows:—

***5/-* per Share on application.**
***10/-* „ „ on allotment.**
***15/-* „ „ one month after allotment** *(which includes premium of* 10/-*)*.

DIRECTORS.

SIR HENRY COTTON, K.C.S.I., 45, St. John's Wood Park, N.W., Chairman.
H. HALLIFAX WELLS (H. H. Wells and Sons, Solicitors, 17, Paternoster Row, E.C.), Vice-Chairman.
W. MILLWOOD, Barrister-at-Law, Garden Court, Temple, Director, East London Railway Company.
H. F. GILMOUR, Merchant, 5, Fen Court, E.C.
R. W. BRIMACOMBE, M.D., 10, Harley Street, W.
J. W. GREIG, 111, Canfield Gardens, N.W., Director, London General Omnibus Company, Limited.
CHARLES J. FOWLER, 13, Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W., Managing Director.

BANKERS.

LONDON and SOUTH-WESTERN BANK, Ltd., 155-156, Cheapside, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

NICHOLSON, GRAHAM and JONES, 21, Coleman Street, E.C.

BROKER

FRANK NEWSON-SMITH, 1, Draper's Gardens, London, E.C., and the Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.

CHARLES EVES and Co., Chartered Accountants, Capel House, New Broad Street, London, E.C.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

R. L. CAUNTER, M.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., 45, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C.
ALGERNON TAYLOR, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Walgrave, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham.

FIRE MANAGER.
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W. E. GARDINER.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT.
HERBERT J. WATT, A.C.A.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
P. BALDWIN SMITH.

MANAGING DIRECTOR and SECRETARY.
CHARLES J. FOWLER.

PROSPECTUS.

Capital.—The LAW CAR and General Insurance Corporation, Limited, was established 4th August, 1906, with an Authorised Capital of £100,000, the whole of which was subscribed privately between August, 1906, and September, 1908. The Capital was increased to £350,000 in March, 1909, and in that month the Corporation offered for subscription 250,000 shares to be paid up to 5 per share at a premium of 1s.6d. per share (i.e., **a premium of 30 per cent.** on the amount to be called up), of which 144,168 shares were allotted and £36,042 has been paid upon the shares so allotted.

Progress, Economy, Dividends.—The remarkable progress of the Corporation, and the low ratio of expenses at which it is conducted, are shewn in the following statement:—

Year	Net Premium Income.	Assets including uncalled Capital	Total Resources including Premium Income.	Dividends Free of Income Tax	Ratio of Expenses to Premium Income.
	£	£	£		
1907	68,099	104,867	172,966	5 per cent.	30·10 per cent.
1908	191,930	234,192	426,122	10 „ „	28·29 „ „
1909	287,876	442,819	510,695	12½ „ „ (including Bonus 2½%)	28 03 „ „

Organisation.—The Corporation transacts all classes of Insurance business except Life; but the Directors propose to include the latter, for which it possesses special facilities, referred to below.

It has extensive connections and an exceedingly valuable organisation, including twenty-seven fully equipped Branches and several thousands of Agents, the whole cost of which has been met out of Revenue as it arose.

Reasons for Issue and Future Prospects.—The continued progress and the great future possibilities of the Corporation fully justify a further increase in the financial resources of the Corporation, and it is the intention of the Board, as foreshadowed by the Chairman at the last Annual General Meeting, to recommend to the Shareholders the utilisation of their valuable agency connections, organised Branches and large *clientele*, by adding to the existing classes that of Life Assurance, of which the Managing Director possesses a long experience. The Corporation is well fitted to embark upon it at a minimum outlay, and to add thereby an asset of considerable value. A deposit of £20,000 with the Government would have to be made in compliance with the Assurance Companies' Act, 1909.

How profitable Life business is may be seen from the prices of shares in the following companies transacting it:—

Name.	Paid Up per Share.	Prices in 1909. Highest.	Lowest.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Atlas	1 4 0	5 10 0	5 0 0
Edinburgh Life ..	10 0 0*	48 0 0	46 10 0
Law Life	2 0 0*	24 10 0	19 7 0
Legal & General Life	2 0 0	17 15 0	16 10 0
Pearl Life	5 0 0	65 0 0	62 10 6
Prudential	5 0 0	62 0 0	60 0 0
Star Life	1 5 0	47 10 0	36 0 0
Sun Life	1 0 0	19 10 0	18 15 0

* *Excluding additions from profits.*

60,000 £1 Shares to be **paid up in full** are now offered for subscription, the issue price being fixed at £1 10s. per share, of which 10s. is premium.

It will be observed that **these shares** when paid up **carry no uncalled liability.**

Shares rank for full Dividend as from date of Allotment.—The shares now offered will rank *pari passu* with the existing shares, and will carry full Dividend as from date of Allotment.

Priority of Allotment.—Existing Shareholders, Policyholders and Agents of the Corporation will receive priority of Allotment.

Interest chargeable on Arrears.—Interest at the rate of Five per cent. per annum will be chargeable upon payments in arrear, but failure to pay at the due date any instalment on shares allotted will render the previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Brokerage.—A brokerage of sixpence per share will be paid on shares allotted in respect of applications bearing a Broker's Stamps.

Stock Exchange Quotation.—Application will be made in due course, for a settlement and quotation on the London Stock Exchange.

Commission on Shares.—The Corporation paid Commissions amounting in the aggregate to £731 5s. 6d., in respect of subscriptions for 58,254 Shares in the Corporation during a period of two years prior to the 22nd February, 1910.

Memorandum and Articles of Association.—Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be inspected any day during the issue of this prospectus at the offices of the Corporation between the hours of 11 and 4.

Applications for Shares.—Applications may be lodged with the Corporation's Bankers or forwarded to the Head Office, 4, St. Paul's Churchyard, London, E.C.

Minimum Subscription.—The minimum subscription on which the Directors will go to allotment is 25,000 Shares.

Return of Deposit if no Allotment.—Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance of the deposit will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant. *25th February*, 1910.

LAW CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.
Issue of 60,000 Shares at a Premium of 10s. per Share.

APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

No. .....

To the Directors of the
LAW CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,

Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of Five Shillings per Share on ..... Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the above-named Corporation, I hereby request that you will allot to me that number of shares upon the terms of the Corporation's prospectus, dated 25th February, 1910, filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that you may allot to me, and I agree to pay the balance of £1 5s. per share as provided by the prospectus, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members as the holder of the Shares allotted to me.

FOR PRIORITY OF ALLOTMENT.—Please state whether you are a Shareholder, Policyholder, or Agent.

NOTE. PLEASE WRITE DISTINCTLY.

Ordinary Signature .....

Name (in full) ..... (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address (in full) .....

Profession or Business .....

Dated ..... 1910.

Cheques should be made payable to the Corporation's Bankers—
THE LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, LIMITED
A separate remittance must accompany each application.

THE PORTSMOUTH NAVAL DISASTER.

We learn from a statement in our contemporary, *The Fleet*—a statement made by Mr. George Crowe, a member of the Committee of the Naval Disaster Fund—that the ex-Mayor of Portsmouth "considers himself very scurvily treated by JOHN BULL." The ex-Mayor refers to our criticism of the administration of the fund raised to assist the sufferers from the *Tiger* and *Gladiator* disasters. We criticised the way in which the £9,860 odd subscribed has been dealt with. Of this £9,860, £9,000 has been lent to the Portsmouth Corporation, and the payments between April 15th, 1908, and March 31st, 1909, to the sufferers from the two disasters amounted to no more than £330 4s. 6d. We are sorry that the ex-Mayor should consider that he has been scurvily treated by us, but we must adhere to all we have said on this matter. Let us look for a moment at the facts as given by Mr. Crowe in *The Fleet*.

In the *Tiger* disaster there were 35 lives lost and in the *Gladiator* 27 lives—in all 62. Mr. Crowe says there are now 23 widows and 38 children and six mothers of single men borne on the fund. But assuming that the 62 men lost left dependents, either parents or wives, the 23 wives and six mothers mentioned by Mr. Crowe leaves a balance of 33 dependents of the lost sailors outside the fund. Mr. Crowe may say they are undeserving, but as *The Fleet* observes, 33 out of 62 is a pretty large proportion to wipe out as "not deserving." Apart from that, we contend most strongly that the £9,000 odd ought not to have been locked up as it has been for 25 years. It is an altogether excessive period. If even the period had been 15 years it would have enabled the Committee to have given much more liberal present help, which, after all, is the main consideration where a relief fund is concerned.

FOOD v. KNOWLEDGE.

Alfred V. Turner, of Side Road, South Grove, Walthamstow, tells us that he was summoned for the non-attendance of his daughter, Winnie Turner, at school during the latter part of December and the beginning of January, it being alleged in the information that there was "no reasonable excuse for such non-attendance." We suppose there is no word in the English language that gives rise to more debate than this word "reasonable." Let us see how it is interpreted by the wiseacres of the Council's Schools. The default was on the part of Turner's little girl, a very delicate child. The weather was bad, and she had no boots. This was explained to the Attendance Officer—one Baker—when he called upon Turner. Baker said she ought to have boots, and of course she ought if only her father could get them for her, but in a memorandum to the Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates he explained that his income does not average more than 2s. per head per week after rent and insurance are paid. "So you will see," he writes to the magistrate, "that with illness in the house, even the matter of a pair of boots is an item of importance to persons in my position. If the boots had been got there would have been a shortage in the food supply, and as a father, I think the latter of more importance than either the boots or schooling; so would you if you were placed as I am."

There seems a good deal of sense in what Turner says, but the Walthamstow magistrates were not impressed by it, and fined him 5s., and this money he has to pay or go to gaol. Writing to us Turner says:—

> I am most anxious that my children should receive a good education, and in the case of the child mentioned, I might says she has never attended school till we came down here to live owing to her health, yet she is in the third standard and going up higher in April, so you see she has not been neglected at home in the matter of education, taking all things into consideration.

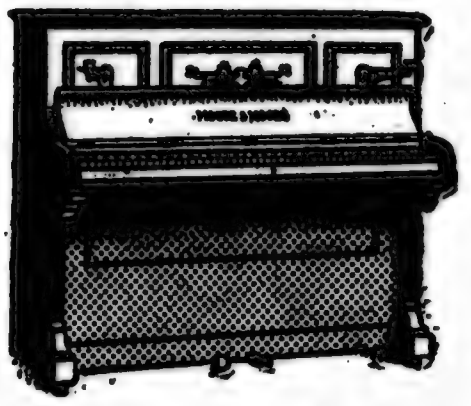
We really find it difficult to write with moderation when dealing with such cases as this. Perhaps some kind reader would like to give Turner a hand.

HAVE any of our readers had dealings with "Daily Events Company, Limited"? If so, perhaps they will communicate with us.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?
See page iii. of Cover.

"A HALF TRADITION."

According to the *Morning Post*, there is "a sort of half tradition which marks an Attorney-General for a certain path of progress," to wit, the Home Office, and so our contemporary assumed it to be likely that Sir Wm. Robson would have succeeded Mr. Gladstone. We are curious to know upon what the "sort of half tradition" rests. For the last 20 years or so, there has been talk about an Attorney-General going to the Home Office. It was said that Sir Henry James would prefer the appointment to the Lord Chancellorship, which he declined in 1886, but he never got it. Sir William Harcourt was actually at the Home Office, but then he was never Attorney-General, and only for a few months "a sort of"—to borrow from Lord Halsbury—Solicitor-General. We have never heard it said that Sir Robert Finlay had an eye for anything but the Lord Chancellorship, and though it has been freely rumoured that Sir William Robson would like to go to the Home Office, assuming the rumour to represent his wish, it would not create the half tradition to which our contemporary refers.



THIS Excellent Piano—The famous model—will be sent to your home for 30 days' trial. If you like it you pay £19:13:9 cash or payments of 14/- a month; if not, there is no charge whatsoever—we take the piano away. A fair offer.

Write for full particulars and our complete Catalogue We send FREE to any address

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The Famous British Piano Manufacturers
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OIL FOR THE EMPIRE FROM THE EMPIRE.

THE COMING OIL BOOM OF 1910.

Now that the Admiralty, according to the *Daily Express*, has decided to adopt Liquid Fuel in the Navy, it becomes more apparent than ever that the attention given to Oil Production from the British Colonies will be increased. Burmah, India, Egypt, Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, West Africa, Trinidad, and New Zealand, all contain supplies of Oil awaiting development, and now is the time for the British Capitalist to invest in Oil.

California, Italy, Mexico, Spain, will also contribute further supplies of Oil to the world's production.

For all information respecting new Oil Fields, and the prices of Oil Shares, apply to Geo. Macdonald, 560-1, Salisbury House, London, E.C.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, Esq., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

Readers desirous of joining the League must fill up the subjoined form and forward same to the Secretary, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C., or to their local Secretary.

No Officer of the League, except the Organizing or Local Secretary, is, in any circumstances, authorized to solicit or receive subscriptions.

SOME BRANCH REPORTS.

ANERLEY.—Our Anerley correspondent reports that at a recent service held at the Anerley Congregational Church, the minister (Dr. Warschauer) largely dealt with Party politics. The Chairman of the Penge and Anerley Council immediately rose from his seat and quitted the building. As Mr. Rollison, J.P. (the Chairman), is well-known and respected in the district the falling off in the attendance at some of the meetings of the church is doubtless due to his example.

BRONDESBURY.—The Killjoys are on the warpath here, and are getting up a petition to stop the bands playing in the parks in Willesden on Sunday evenings during hours of Divine service; they have also sent a request to the Home Secretary asking for the prohibition of the flying of kites, etc., on Sundays in the public parks. As the election for the new District Council takes place shortly, it is essential that local members should obtain the views of the different candidates before recording their votes.

LOUTH (Lincs.).—The League is making good progress here in spite of some very keen criticism and opposition from extreme local politicians. Our President's activity in the House on the subject of a Business Government is causing great interest, and the local Press is giving prominence to Mr. Bottomley's motion on the Party question. Among other items of friendly criticism, the *Louth and North Lincolnshire News* says:—"We have been deeply interested in Mr. Bottomley's speech at the League's inaugural meeting, and one or two passages are worth notice. He says: 'I was looking to-day at the report of the Society for the Conversion of the Jews, and I find that every Jew who is converted to the Christian faith costs us something like £2,000 sterling. £40,000 a year is spent in converting Jews to the Christian faith, actually in paying large salaries and expenses.'"

POOLE.—Considerable interest has been created in this district by JOHN BULL's outspoken criticism in respect of our neighbouring borough—Bournemouth, and we are pleased to know that our President is keeping his eye on our own "infallible" Council. Local newsagents report a great increase of sales since the formation of the League, and if JOHN BULL's Editor could manage to pay us a visit, doubtless a further enormous increase would be announced.

A List of Local Secretaries may be had on application.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

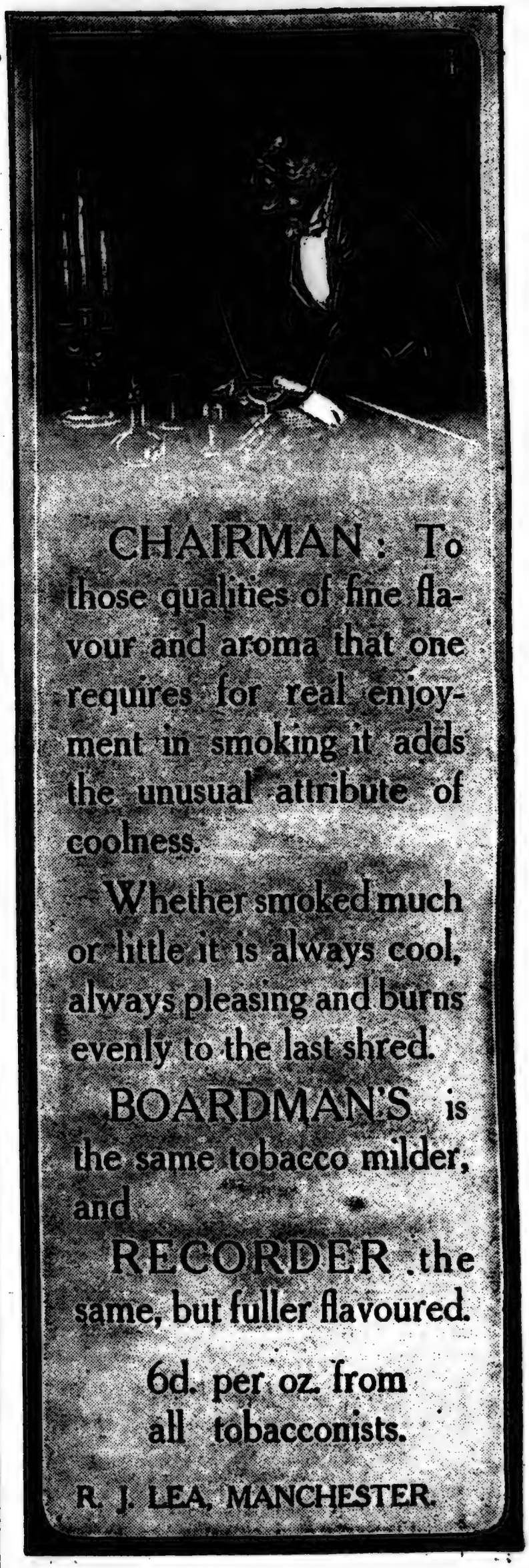
—:o:—

Please enrol me as a Member of the JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

Name .....

Address .....

.....


CHAIRMAN: To those qualities of fine flavour and aroma that one requires for real enjoyment in smoking it adds the unusual attribute of coolness.
Whether smoked much or little it is always cool, always pleasing and burns evenly to the last shred.
BOARDMAN'S is the same tobacco milder, and
RECORDER the same, but fuller flavoured.
6d. per oz. from all tobacconists.
R. J. LEA, MANCHESTER.

DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"Justice."

No one who has read the finely conceived, scholarly works of John Galsworthy, or been engrossed by the amazingly truthful pictures of real life in his plays "The Silver Box" and "Strife," can argue for an instant that Mr. Galsworthy is anything but a magnificently forcible, earnest and capable writer.

But what is the use of the most exquisite dramatic literature in the world if we cannot hear it spoken?

At the Duke of York's Theatre, for some inexpressible reason—or possibly to give a greater sense of realism to the stage—most of the artists in "Justice" act, as it were, in fetters, and it seems a thousand pities, for one strains and aches to hear the *truth* as spoken by John Galsworthy.

Certain of our English managers may have thought about the Parisian Antoine school of acting when producing plays, but I do not think they have followed directly in the Frenchman's footsteps, for never a word or syllable was ever lost to the audience during the reign of this admirably natural and artistic management.

The piteous tale of torture and anguish Mr. Galsworthy describes in his scenes of "Justice" suffer considerably by the all too confidential conversation that is carried on by the players in this drama of fate, and I, for one, would have given much more than I paid for my stall could I have heard the words that most of us were so keen on listening to.

Therefore, is it to be wondered at that the moment when you are most impressed in John Galsworthy's tragic play occurs where the weak, miserable creature, William Falder, is dragging out his years of penal servitude for forgery? There you see him in solitary confinement pacing up and down his cell, running his poor fingers round the walls, anything to vary the awful monotony of existence, until, half maddened with the deathly silence he is condemned to, he suddenly hears another convict in his prison cage beating wildly against the bolted door, and William Falder, first hesitatingly, then desperately, joins in, and bangs his hands with all his might on the thick wood.

And here I venture to think Mr. Galsworthy might have given a touch of dramatic contrast, and instead of showing us William Falder—undeniably an irresponsible, foolish, and miserably feeble wretch from the outset, a specimen of frail humanity that any woman could twist round her fingers—would it not have gone straight home to have drawn a powerful but poor man, of big intellect and fine physique falling a victim to circumstances in almost the same way? Then the agony of that penal servitude scene might have been doubly intensified, but perhaps it would have been unbearable in its horror.

But now for the woman, and I put it to you, would anyone so robust and clear-minded as Ruth Honeywill select such a thin, ill-balanced, down-at-heel companion to cling to for the support of herself and children, driven even to the state of desperation as she is, by the cruelty of her husband—could she really and truly love a William Falder?

Of course she couldn't and she doesn't, for immediately Falder is put into prison Mrs. Honeywill seeks work, succeeds in obtaining it, and becomes the mistress of her employer.

Therefore, with the woman for whose sake William Falder commits felony, and is justly imprisoned, you can have no sympathy; with the convict who is let out on "ticket-of-leave," and eventually kills himself by flinging his hunted body over the balustrade because he is "wanted" again for having failed to report himself and given false references in order to get employment, you feel—well, perhaps that is the best way out.

"Justice," bitterly realistic as it may be, leaves you, therefore with that shivering impression of awe as though you had just visited a *real* prison and been present in a *real*, dingy, dim court of law.

But what a different sensation we might experience if only the players spoke up. I don't believe in *over*-acting, but at the same time it is impossible to convey all the author's meaning by *under*-acting, and in John Galsworthy's "ghastly tragedy of life" not one sentence should be missed or slurred over.

It is evidently Mr. Galsworthy's intention to prove how the "religion of the drama" can be accurately preached from the stage, and his remarkable sermon should be *distinctly* heard by all.

The Sicilians.

Once again the clever troupe of Sicilian players is with us, and this time at the Lyric Theatre they have created a greater *furore* than ever.

In "Feudalismo," Cavaliere Grasso and Signora Bragalia absolutely roused the audience to frenzy; in "La Zolfaro" neither the leading actor or actress have the same chance of showing the force of their extraordinary emotional powers, but in "Malia," the drama which drew all London to the Shaftesbury when the Sicilians appeared there before, Cavaliere Grasso and Signora Bragalia are to be seen at their very best. By the way, what a very pretty woman Signora Bragalia is; I have rarely seen so beautiful a Sicilian lady. I must say a word about the mandoline and guitar orchestra, conducted so charmingly by Carlo D'Amato—it is delightful to listen to, and the well-known Italian melodies are received with much enthusiasm.

HYGIENIC HINTS.

SORE THROAT—ITS CURE AND PREVENTION.

"Prevention is better than cure," is a proverb whose value the medical profession is daily impressing upon the public. Although it has been partly learnt, much remains to be done before common diseases are exterminated, as typhus fever, cholera, and other virulent plagues have been banished.

Most diseases owe their origin to germs. If the germs did not exist those diseases would be unknown. As, however, germs do exist, everyone should guard against their inroads, for they multiply so rapidly that a few become millions in a short time. That is why germ diseases produce their results so rapidly. If these germs are destroyed early in their attack, most—nay, all—of the suffering they cause is prevented.

At this season, when the climatic conditions are bad, sore and ulcerated throats, bronchitis, and diphtheria, with other complaints like measles and scarlet fever, are particularly prevalent, the statistics of the Registrar-General prove how dangerous and fatal they are.

Yet, taken early, sore throats which would become exceedingly bad, even diphtheritic, can easily be cured.

Doctors have long been convinced that gargles will not do this, for they rarely reach the place where they are most required, *i.e.*, the back of the throat and behind the tonsils, and the act of gargling irritates the inflamed and diseased parts, which should be kept absolutely quiet to ensure a rapid cure. What is needed therefore, is something which will kill the germs while keeping the inflamed parts at rest.

Science has at length discovered such a preparation. It is the most powerful destroyer of germs known, acting rapidly, and surely, yet so harmlessly that the youngest baby can take it without the least danger.

This Preparation is called Wulfing's Formamint.

DIPHTHERIA GERMS DESTROYED.

How powerful are its efforts is proved by an experiment made by a professor in the laboratory of one of the world's greatest Universities. He took some germs from the throat of a patient suffering from diphtheria and mixed a little Formamint dissolved in water with them. Within ten minutes every single germ was destroyed

Were pages to be written, nothing more convincing could be adduced than this power of Formamint to cure sore throats in their varied forms.

Formamint tablets have so pleasant a taste that children regard them as sweets. As children are peculiarly liable to colds and sore throats at this season, the advantage of a remedy, which they will take with pleasure, is overwhelming.

Moreover by reason of its powerful antiseptic action, Formamint will absolutely cure offensive breath, whether due to disordered conditions of the stomach, disease of the air passages, or the over-use of tobacco or alcohol.

A FREE TRIAL.

To enable Formamint's many virtues to be tested, a sample will be sent free of charge to all applicants forwarding a postcard, to-day, asking for same. An exceedingly interesting little book—"The Prevention of Infectious Disease"—by Dr. Andrew Wilson, the famous authority on Hygiene, will also be given free.

Application to be made to the manufacturers, A. Wulfing & Co., 12, Chenies Street, London, W.C., mentioning John Bull.

Formamint can be obtained from all chemists in bottles containing 50 tablets, at 1s. 11d. per bottle.

Stimulated by the success of Wulfing's Formamint, many preparations claiming to be as good are being offered to the public. This claim is false. Formamint is manufactured under Royal Letters Patent. Any attempt to imitate it would render the imitators liable to prosecution. They have, therefore, not imitated its composition, only its form and flavour.

To obtain the certainty of cure of all forms of sore throat insist on having Wulfing's Formamint.—[Advt.]

Lend Me Your Ears and I Will Make Them Hear.

A MESSAGE TO THE DEAF.

By Professor Hoffman.

The writer of this advertisement was some time ago as deaf as anyone who is likely to read it. After going through all the preliminary stages of roaring in the ears, strange shrilling noises and thrills in the head, hearing wrongly and hearing spasmodically, I became to all intents and purposes STONE DEAF.

And now I CAN HEAR—PERFECTLY. This is how I did it.

I tried the Doctors—British and Continental. I tried massage — baths — diet — electricity — internal washes and lotions. They didn't help. Going through all this, I learned, of my own intelligence, some knowledge of ear troubles, their causes, and the lines usually followed in their treatment. Grown desperate in the fight for one of the most precious of senses, I studied aural trouble in men and animals; I studied the delicate anatomy of the ear; I mastered the laws of sound-carrying and vibration. As a layman—a man of unprejudiced mind—I set myself to find out WHY I was cursed with this dread affliction; I set myself to find the cure.

Now I can say, "I have found it." I can hear. I want, as well, to let my experience be of use to the thousands who still suffer. "None so deaf as those who won't hear": my message is well worthy the ear of those who are now deaf but who are determined, if cure there be, not to remain so a moment longer.

My invention to cure deafness, and its applications, are fully described in my book, "Deafness: Its Cause and Cure"; but seeing it is a simple, common-sense one, it can be briefly explained here.

In a word, it is based on this fact: *Deaf people can hear over the telephone.* A voice that would be raised in vain, were the speaker in the same room with the sufferer, is clearly audible from miles away by the aid of the electric wire and receiver. The Ear-phone is a small, portable, invisible telephone-for-the-ear. It consists of two small, acorn-shaped, soft-feeling pieces of apparatus which fit into the ear—unseen, comfortable, wonderfully efficacious.

Its applications are various. If you are deaf in one ear only, use one ear-phone in the affected ear. The ear without the ear-phone will look precisely the same as that in which it is being used. The ear-phone, being perfectly comfortable, can be worn always—anywhere—and forgotten. By putting the delicate organism of the auditory nerve in tune with the sound vibrations of the air all strain, friction, and jar are avoided. The ear-phone also serves as a preventive to earache, neuralgia, and other maladies caused by lack of ear protection. It puts a stop to all unpleasant noises and rumblings in the ear and head. Some people can hear words and sounds within a certain limited pitch only, instead of responding to the whole nine octaves which form the usual compass of the human ear. In these cases the ear-phone is especially valuable, as it can be supplied to correct the deficiencies just where help is needed.

Nothing is so pathetic and tragic as the position of people who want to hear but cannot. Many of life's greatest pleasures are denied them—the rare delights of music, the voices of loved ones. The discomforts which defective hearing imposes in social intercourse, the obstacle it forms to business progress, the general embarrassment and pain it causes, make of existence a truly burdensome pilgrimage. A partial or spasmodic form is almost worse than the complete deprivation, as one is then included in the circle of conversation, and cruel discomfort results. Moreover, the effects upon the mind and nerves are of the worst—an irritable, semi-stupid, and yet timid feeling overtakes the victim of imperfect hearing, and gradually robs him of that alertness and buoyancy which alone makes life worth living. Deafness, too, increases with age, and I know of no cure save the Ear-phone, which has the power of arresting decay of the auditory sense and enabling it to be used in the fullest efficiency while life remains.

The ear-phone, as its name implies, performs the same function as the telephone of bringing people who must otherwise remain in point of communication far apart, in close touch with each other. In my own case, when people addressed me it was as a shouting from mountain-top to mountain-top; now communication is easy, effortless, and pleasurable. Only those who, like me, have passed through this valley of the shadow can say how pleasurable it is to be once more "in tune with the universe"—in touch with the world. The coming of the ear-phone was to me like a hand stretched out through the night—the helping hand of a friend. Let me stretch this hand out to you. Let me help you to overcome your impediment in the same way as I overcame mine. First of all, no doubt, you would like to hear more about my methods, and the arguments upon which they are based. Fill in, then, the coupon below without delay—it is the first step to regaining efficient hearing and all that it brings in its train.

J'B.

COUPON.

TO PROFESSOR E. HOFFMAN

(Dept. 60H), 54, Duke Street, W.

Please send me, free and post free, a copy of your Illustrated book, "Deafness: Its Cause and Cure."

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

The Fancy Dress Problem.

At first sight it seems difficult to account for the fact that the Artists' Ball at Covent Garden this year as usual produced nothing very remarkable or brilliant in the way of fancy costume. I heard some artists themselves discussing the problem, and wondering why. One would naturally suppose that artists, being devoted to the study of nothing but "effects," and having every possible opportunity for understanding the inner history of costume, would be bound to score huge successes at these spectacular balls, and yet on their own confession they do not.

But herein lies the real cause of failure. Actually they know too much about colouring and costume in its scientific sense, and too little about the real theory of fancy dress, which is simply—glorified childishness. The smartest costume dance is only a grown-up edition of our childhood's "dress-up" days, and it needs the same romp spirit in it to get the right effect and "go." It does not require a deep and saddened knowledge of the Venetian Renaissance notion of a velvet tab, of a remote and intense acquaintance with 14th century Gueldres tapestry to look one's best at such a party. But it does need a strain of jolly heedlessness and enthusiasm, a touch of the real old "Lord of Misrule" spirit, which made "merrie England" famous for its masques and buffooneries. In a word it wants something of the jovial recklessness of Shakespeare himself, acting before old James I., at Hampton Court, in his own plays, and borrowing odd fineries from the Court people to get a "Tempest" caste fairly clothed. As to the artists, the man who could paint a rattling good poster could manage a fancy dress. It is a self-conscious impressionism that has a bad effect on our artistic friends. A touch of robustness would do them all good.

Blouse-Making.

Most of us, I think, will welcome the news that the Board of Education are at last preparing to educate the little daughters of the poor in some sort of sensible needlework. The now quite common case of servants who cannot ply a needle for love or money, or of factory girls, earning a few shillings a week, actually buying all their clothing and even blouses ready-made, is the result of a system of needlework classes in the Elementary Schools that is unpractical to a degree. But now we hear that "samplers" are at last to be abolished, miniature and "model" and paper clothes put in the background, and instead of these the cutting-out and making of real underclothing to be worn by the makers, and also the fashioning of blouses, also to be worn. This is good news indeed. Not long ago when I asked a head-mistress of a Board school why her girls were not taught to make dresses and blouses she said it could not be done because the dressmakers would make such a fuss about it! And this in a slum neighbourhood where such a curiosity as a dressmaker is hardly to be found, and where the clothing of the people comes almost solely from sweating dens run by foreign Jews. Surely educational crankism could go no further in Gilbertian silliness? But the results are often tragic in the case of poor artisans' young wives whose deplorable ignorance of clothes-making makes them buy ready-made, shoddy, "slop" clothes off street stalls, and clothe themselves therein like scarecrows; or, worse still, buy finery on the hire system! How different from the taut little French factory and working women, with their neat rows of buttons down their perfectly-fitting, home-made bodices, and their savings-bank accounts! Not long ago I heard of a starving young woman, the daughter of my charwoman, whose husband, a night watchman, was laid up and unable to earn anything. There were four ragged kiddies to keep. I offered her a job through her old mother. "My daughter come and clean, mum!" she said, aghast. "Oh no, she's much too clever to do that sort of work, mum." Later on I offered a small mountain of home-mending for this brainy person to do. "Oh no, mum, my daughter cannot sew a stitch," said the proud parent. "She went to a school where they brought her up a *real lady*."

The Frivolous Fraulein Again.

A man reader writes, very courteously, to point out that in my recent remarks about a lady who went to see "life" in Berlin at night, I either made far too light of her escapade, or else I do not know that district of Berlin at night-time. I admit the latter, and have no doubt that he is perfectly right about it, but must ask him to remember that I was not defending the lady's action at all, but only making fun of the method her very correct *fiance* had of asserting his authority. I agree with my reader that the man was in the right, but his way of being so put him in the wrong—a very common and pathetic human situation. And it never will be anything but a little amusing to my sex when men take over its moral guidance in a lordly manner. Not that we don't like it; on the contrary. Curiously enough, the "Monarch-of-all-I-survey" attitude in a man really rather fascinates me, and I like it ever so much better than a limp equality, or a feeble acquiescence. It is fun to be ordered about if only to find new ways of obeying without obeying. But perhaps the Fraulein had had enough of it, and calculated that only a good "shock" would rid her of a lover so dreary that he could charge her, afterwards, for her share in concert tickets. Cupid with an invoice is depressing.

The Effect of Electricity on Disease

NO LONGER A MATTER OF DOUBT.

Every day brings fresh proof of the value of electricity as a remedy for human ills. Cases which only a few years ago were considered incurable are now treated with the utmost success. Patients who have been trying medicines until they made a drug shop of their stomachs suddenly realise that the old system is wrong. They have been dosing their poor stomachs with poisonous materials until the entire organic system has rebelled against it. It is suicidal to continue such a practice. Electricity is the remedy which should be used in all cases. It is perfectly harmless, and yet so many thousands owe their recovery to it.

Professor O. S. Fowler, in his work on the treatment of nervous diseases, says: "Sufferers little realise how far they are restorable, yet they seek relief in the wrong directions, for medicines cannot cure this class of disease, but, on the contrary, they almost universally prove injurious. They are no more adapted to reach these cases than a dose of ipecac. or jalap is to assuage a mother's grief for the loss of her darling babe, for, the disease being largely local, the restoratives must be applied directly to those prostrated parts; and, since electricity is undoubtedly the instrumentality of all life, it necessarily follows that this element constitutes Nature's one most potent remedy in these diseases, when rightly applied."

Every scientist who has devoted any time to the study of electricity is enthusiastic in its curative powers. It cures because it supplies the necessary life element. The cure is pleasant, being accomplished while the patient rests. The "Ajax" Dry-Cell Battery is peculiarly adapted to nearly all general ailments. It is, without doubt, the most successful treatment known to-day.

All forms of weakness are cured by it. Electricity takes the place of weakness, banishing it for ever. It cannot resist it. Nervousness, Neurasthenia, Insomnia, Paralysis, Neuralgia, Hysteria, Locomotor Ataxy, and Epilepsy yield to it in a surprising manner. It has no equal as a cure of Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, Gout, and Backache. Its success in Dyspepsia, Constipation, Diarrhœa, Liver and Kidney troubles is brilliant. Many other complaints are being cured by it, and women find it just as satisfactory and effective as men.

The battery that is used has received the very highest endorsements. It is the only battery that has ever been given the *Science Siftings* Certificate of Merit. It is the only battery that can be used on the body and supply a strong current with no charging. It secured the Grand Prix and Gold Medal at the International Exhibition.

The cure of Mr. Wm. Skitch, Honicknowle, Crown Hill, R. S. O., Devon, was a remarkable one, considering his seventy-eight years. He says: "I have never been better in health than at present. All through the severe weather I have not felt the least effect. I can truly say it is the battery that has saved me from being a complete cripple."

Electricity is the ideal treatment for all nervous conditions. Mr. S. Bailey, Junr., 94, Warner Street, Derby, reports a cure of Epilepsy. He says: "I am pleased to be able to report to you a complete cure of my dangerous disease, Epilepsy. Man has at last found a cure for this disease in the electric treatment, and it could not be applied in a more comfortable or easier way than by the 'Ajax' Dry-Cell Body Battery."

Another such report is from Mr. J. Hodgson, 7, Marmion Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool: "In less than three months the battery did all for me you said it would, by restoring me to complete health and vigour." Hundreds of such letters can be shown.

A treatise on the subject has been published that is well worth two guineas to any health seeker. It is entitled, "Electricity: The Road to Health." It tells all about the human body, the cause of disease, and how it can be cured. The subject of health is exhaustively treated in this eighty-page pamphlet. A free copy will be sent to any reader of John Bull. Simply drop a postcard or a note to The British Electric Institute (Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C. Not one penny of expense is attached to your application. The book will be sent in a perfectly plain envelope, sealed.—[Advt.]

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6893	18	15	0
6928	40	0	0
7315	51	12	6
7399	26	5	0
7528	7	17	6
7745	7	7	0
8037	10	0	0
8431	14	0	0
8738	9	15	0
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3558	12	0	0
4067	13	10	0
4301	11	0	0
7088	6	15	0
6254	27	5	0
6913	6	15	0
7170	21	0	0
7870	7	0	0
8425	16	19	11
14414	56	17	6
4101	16	0	0
	£218	13	8

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Cheque No.	£	s.	d.
4170	8	0	0
4493	5	15	0
4736	5	5	0
5712	5	0	0
5865	10	0	0
6052	12	17	6
6450	6	10	0
7910	7	7	9
8563	39	15	0
9275	19	10	0
9667	38	15	0
10392	28	18	4
10762	59	0	0
31526	30	0	0
12527	42	19	9
13425	150	0	0
	£469	12	7

G. M.'s Amount.

Cheque No.	£	s.	d.
2383	20	0	0
1427	20	0	0
2093	12	0	0
2458	13	16	0
3111	8	0	0
3905	8	0	0
6496	6	15	0
7024	9	0	0
9408	41	17	6
10951	10	5	0
11438	51	18	6
	£201	12	0

A. W.'s Amount.

Cheque No.	£	s.	d.
1586	20	0	0
1793	20	0	0
Car. fwd.	£40	0	0

Cheque No.	£	s.	d.
Brt. fwd.	£40	0	0
2491	52	15	6
2671	12	0	0
2998	39	0	0
3037	18	0	0
3070	24	0	0
3546	47	0	0
4585	35	0	0
5490	30	0	0
5443	17	11	0
6307	21	7	8
6355	8	0	0
7032	15	6	5
7818	35	10	0
8123	12	10	0
13184	7	5	0
10113	20	0	0
	£435	5	7

What we ask of you.

We only ask that you will fill up and forward the coupon at side. It will take you a minute. On receipt of it we will give you particulars of our business. If you are not interested, then the matter ends. But if you choose to enter into business relations with us after we have explained the advantages of our system of money-making, there is no reason why you should not benefit.

One Road to Wealth is by initiative. All you are asked to do is to Fill Up and Send the Coupon at side. It is not much to ask of you, but it will have Practical Results.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICULARS.

TO THE SECRETARY,
NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is not already on your books) full particulars of your methods and system of money-making, as well as a list of cheques, totalling £338,060, which you have paid clients acting on your advice and recommendations, together with a Search Form, so that I can verify any single cheque, or batch of cheques, that I may select.

J B.
1.50.

NAME .....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

ADDRESS IN FULL.....

.....

Please Write Distinctly

DATE .....

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.—LXXIX.

The following case seems to us worthy of help. If any of our readers can see their way to assist the writer we shall be happy to put them in communication with him :—

The pathetic elements may not appear so marked in the following details perhaps as in some other "Documents" which have appeared, but they are none the less real and evident to the writer, who knows only too well that this is a "Document of despair."

I am single, 35 years of age, with years of commercial experience, both in England and abroad—essentially a man's man—and now out of employment, through sheer hard luck.

I lay no claim to being an Admirable Crichton, but I am fitted with the ability of earning my living in a variety of ways, requiring acumen and tact—whether it be by talking, corresponding, interviewing, figures, &c. *Given the opportunity*—there's the rub!

After advertising my wants, and replying to numerous specious advertisements, I find myself, if not actually "at the last gasp," fast becoming within measurable distance of it. My clothes, in which I once used to make a brave show when "on the road," are being gradually transferred to that wardrobe from which there is very little hope of return, and other assets are going the same way. Will somebody kindly offer me occupation, and so dispel the horrible nightmare, before I sink into the ranks of the unemployables?

Mr. Bottomley, in his election address, advocates equality of opportunity for all. It is the lack of just that from which I am now suffering, and if the publication of these few lines should be the medium by which I could get into touch with *that opportunity*, I should be deeply indebted both to John Bull and its readers.

We have received the followings sums for Human Document No. 76: 10s. from F. B. For No. 77, 5s. from F. T., 1s. from "Knox," 2s. from W. A. No. 78, 1s. from "Sympathy."

We have received from Charles Hassell, the writer of Human Document No. 75 a letter thanking us warmly for obtaining a comfortable situation for himself and wife, together with house-room for his child. We are happy in knowing that we have been of service to a worthy man in his trouble.

THE BOY SCOUTS SCANDAL.

STRONG PROTEST FROM SIR FRANCIS VANE.

Sir,—I notice you make reference in the current number of John Bull to certain rumours, ridiculous enough in themselves, but dastardly enough on the part of their authors, which were deliberately circulated with the object of lessening my influence in the Scout Movement, by some person or persons unknown. You will believe, me, Sir, when I say for my own part that those persons who are credulous enough to accept frigid and calculated lies may, so far as I am concerned, continue in their belief, but it is another matter when there is a very wide suspicion that these were invented as part of a system of terrorism, by which men who are unpopular with interested persons may be got out of the way. It is for this reason I now accuse some person of deliberately inventing stories which he promulgated secretly for the purpose of undermining my authority. I accuse some man, but it must be clearly stated that I have no idea who the man is, except in saying that I do not believe any leader in our Movement is responsible for these fables. And yet it is certain that the circle in which he moves is a restricted one. I forward to you all letters and depositions respecting this case, and I am quite willing to allow any person to see or comment on them. I have no fear of his verdict.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Francis Vane (of Hutton),
President, British Boy Scouts.

Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, E.,
February 25th, 1910.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

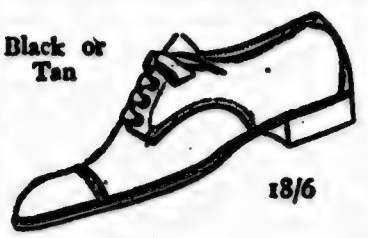
February 27th.—Miss Ellen Terry.

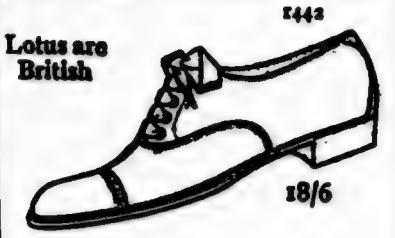
I have often heard it said that a player may instruct a priest.—*Goethe.*

March 3rd.—Sir Ernest Cassel.

Follow the King.—*Tennyson.*

Quality, Refinement, Comfort.





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LOTUS

On request THE LOTUS SHOE MAKERS LTD., STAFFORD, will send illustrated style booklet and the address of the local agent.

AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER

of people avail themselves of the Achille Serre scientific process of dry-cleaning. They find it not only saves their clothes, but saves themselves money. For just 3/9 an old suit can be made to look fresh and new, and only a few days is required to do it in.

Write to-day for our booklet "Clothes and the Man" and address of nearest branch or agency.

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(Nettoyage a sec)
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Carriage paid one way on orders sent direct.

50% more Salary

"I have just obtained an appointment in the South of England," writes Mr. F. W. C. Parry, of Burnley, to the International Correspondence Schools, "and my salary will be increased by 50%. This I attribute entirely to having joined your Schools."

This is by no means an isolated instance. We are continually receiving grateful letters from students who have secured berths at 20%, 50% or 100% higher salaries through spare-time home study with the I. C. S. Indeed, we actively assist our students into such berths through our "Students' Aid Department." Why not let us serve you? There's sure to be one of our 120 courses to meet your particular needs. Simply write us a card, stating your line of work, and receive full particulars, free of charge or obligation.

International Correspondence Schools, Ltd.
Dept. 268K, International Buildings, Kingsway, London, W.C.

Why not for you?

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Has the Cabinet a leg to stand on?
Why not call it the House of "Come On's"?
Why is the Government like the *Invincible?*
Isn't the Brown Dog really a white elephant?
Will the Apprenticeship Exhibition serve its purpose?
Is the Rubber Boom due to "bounce"?
Will the *Thunderer*—the new Thames *Dreadnought*—go like lightning?
Is M. Rostand getting "cocky"?
Is the Premier master of the situation?
Haven't the Peers plenty of "staying" power still?
Isn't the "Strand" Theatre an ill-omened name?
Was Mr. Asquith's holiday for the benefit of the Constitution?

There is no truth in the rumour that Mr. McKenna's son is to be christened Dreadnought Blatchford.

Headline: Four Flying Weeks. But doesn't *all* Time fly?

A Mr. Pigg, according to a legal notice, has changed his name to Pegg. Those who liked him before will still hang on to him.

A Labour M.P. had been writing some verses. They are certainly better than most of the pro's.

The Conservative Whip should know that the Liberals are not easily Hood-winked.

"My husband is a boxer and practises on me," said a woman at Lambeth Police Court. She should "scratch."

Mr. Gaze, of Harrod's, asserts that beautiful women visit the Stores every hour. Nothing wrong about his name.

"The Human Cobweb" has just been published. There are "no flies" on the book.

"Man with a Marble Face," we read. But Fleet Street is full of men with "stoney" looks.

"Wisdom cannot be shouted," says Max Beerbohm. This is very rough on some of our legislators.

Mr. Sandow advises typists to drink water with their lunch. But perhaps they get tired of the tap.

A morning paper calls Strauss "The Jessop of Music." Because he makes a quick score, we presume.

London is becoming "Chantecler" mad, we are told. But we haven't heard Jim Crow yet.

A school for British waiters is a good idea. They badly need some tips.

Asked by the Southwark coroner, "What makes it damp?" a witness replied, "I expect it's the water." Dry humour.

Who wants to go sliding about over a lot of chilly ice," asks the *Daily Sketch*. We prefer warm ice ourselves.

Look Sharp II. won a race at Lingfield. Why didn't the other horses look sharp, too?

"Honesty's Garden" is the name of a new book. Evidently the plot is not stolen.

"There is no standard for beer," says Mr. John Fisher. If there were, men would lower it.

Some Peckham tradesmen want the revocation of the Early Closing Order. We should like the opinion of their assistants.

"Oil for the Navy," we read. Not "palm-oil," we trust.

The Ealing man who has been sued for his wedding clothes can no longer say the tailor did not suit him.

"A good man is a national asset," says the Rev. J. H. Bateson. Just so; a *credit* to his country.

At Christie's recently, £13 per inch was paid for a Lowestoft mug. Prices ruled high.

"Killed by a Piano," reads a headline. Another murdered song?

A Mr. Twombly, of New York, is designing a flying machine that will just fit his wife. Artful Mr. "Tumbly."

"The woman who wishes she had been born a man is a fool," says *Vanity Fair*. Certainly; she may be the better-half of one.

"Wanted," was a recent topic at St. Mary-at-Hill, Monument. A good collection?

The *Star* describes Cruft's Show as a Canine Chorus. By Bach?

The recent landslide in the Isle of Wight produced a good dissolving view.

Headline: "Lady as Fireman." Quenching some of the gay sparks?

A Cardiff boy who swallowed a penny eighteen months ago has just had it removed. We wonder he didn't stick to a halfpenny.

In a recent law-suit, a cash register was described as a total adder. Snakes!

Why should people pay for fish when it is Lent?

A 3 Guinea Raincoat for 35/-

Made to Measure.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER.

The "Wetresista" Raincoat is made of woollen-proofed material, not cotton-proofed, and will therefore retain its shape, no matter how much it is subjected to rain or hard wear.

The material is the same as used in the highest class 3 or 4 Guinea West-End Coats, but in order to introduce our name we are making a special feature of this "Wetresista" Raincoat, to order at 35/-.

In cut, style and finish it is perfect. And it is not only shower-proof, but absolutely **drencher-proof**, without the unhealthy effects of rubber.

"WET RESISTA" TRADE MARK No 320,421

Patterns and Self-measurement forms post free by return. Or Sample Coat sent Carriage Paid to all parts of England and money returned if not approved.

SEE OUR SPECIAL WINDOW DISPLAY THIS WEEK.

Many sizes in stock, ready for immediate wear, from 34 in. to 42 in. chest.

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CONNOCK & LOCKIE, Phone: Gerrard, 4606.

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Facing Shaftesbury Avenue.

Of the many double collars on the market there is no shape more pleasing or which makes a wider appeal than

Summit No. 40 SIX for Three Shillings. SAMPLES 6½ EACH.

Specially strengthened where the strain comes —on the fold: true to size in each of its SIX depths. Your tie slips easily on the band, while the 'lock top' keeps both collar front and tie in position. Quarter-sizes. ¶ Send a postcard for the *Summit* booklet: remember, we refund money promptly if the collars do not please you.

The Peak of Perfection

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LONDON

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The Editor *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

Correspondents are requested not to send original certificates, testimonials, etc., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

A. N. was delighted with Jim Crow's "sensible article" on Furniture and wants him to tackle the question of middle-class housing. Jim promises to do so as soon as he is returned to Parliament.

H. O. (Herts), answering one of our correspondents, writes favourably of a School Agency at 80, Wigmore Street, W. Who is H. O.?

"Pro Patria" (Namur) sends a long attack on Jim Crow's "vile and lying stuff" about Belgians. He writes: "All scientific French-German military works give a direct lie to that Thackerian story. The Belgians never pretended having won the Battle of Waterloo, as they know it were the Prussians, had they not arrived in the nick of time Wellington got a licking!" He considers Leopold one of the greatest kings of the nineteenth century. *Vivent les praves Pelges!*

E. B. W. (Neasden) sent a fur to be dyed by Messrs. Clark and Co., of Retford, and paid 3s., but says she can obtain neither fur nor money, though she has written very many times. If this be true, the fur will soon begin to fly. But do the firm admit delivery?

"Doubtful Liberal" (Croydon) asks whether a successful Labour candidate would be counted to make a Liberal majority. Yes, for the moment.

F. A. S. (Hanwell).—We quite agree that party colours ought not to vary in different constituencies. But it might be difficult to introduce a change.

J. B. (Cricklewood).—Don't worry. The pamphlet comparing Lord Lansdowne to Pontius Pilate is not likely to have gained many votes for the Liberals.

J. R. (Grimsby) says his wife saw an advertisement in the *British Weekly* and sent 6s. 11d. to Messrs. Allen Foster (947, Golden Lane) for a child's coat, and cannot obtain the goods or a return of her money. What say Messrs. Allen Foster?

"Bullite" noticed at the Stanley Show that a nice motor cycle had been sold to A. J. Crow. This is probably Jim's rich uncle. It is certainly not Jim himself, for he has taken to aviation, and we have hopes that he may break his neck before long.

H. B. (Brighton) says there are 12,000 applicants for about 300 appointments to the Labour Exchanges, and he thinks preference ought to be given to people who worked under the Unemployed Workmen Act of 1905.

T. J. R. (Birkenhead).—You are very meticulous in objecting to the phrase: "Whisky drinkers and smokers." Surely "the real thing," as they say in Ireland, has a distinct aroma of smoke.

H. E. T. (London, E.C.) has exhibited show-bills for Drury Lane Theatre for some time, and is disappointed because he does not receive free passes in return. But the manager's apology seems quite polite. If our correspondent is not satisfied, he has the remedy in his own hands.

C. K. (Handsworth) buys tea worth 4d. per quarter pound from the Tea Co., 7, Grosvenor Buildings, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, and pays 6½d. in the hope of getting a bonus of £1 5s. After six years, she is still no richer.

A. R. W. (Birmingham).—Our Special Police Intelligence is intended to be funny. We are sorry to have to point this out, but we cannot award a biscuit to an imaginary magistrate.

C. M. (Norfolk) thinks we do not know much about foreign lotteries. He says they are genuine enough but, whenever a competitor wins a small amount, the agents send him tickets for future competitions in lieu of cash. When a competitor objects to this, he receives his money, after endless correspondence, in strange coins which are difficult to cash.

W. M. (Sparkhill).—If you are proceeding against the man, we must make no comment in the meanwhile. Let us know how you get on. It is certainly a shabby trick to employ girls for five days on trial and refuse them any pay.

"Fair Play" (Bristol).—We are afraid we cannot promise that the John Bull League "will knock the bottom out of the present false term 'Free Trade.'" But it will endeavour to improve it.

Argument (Northwood).—We believe Mr. Redmond and his Party voted against the Second Reading of the Budget, and abstained from voting on the Third Reading.

B. G. (London).—You forget that Mr. Asquith's Government did not resign prior to the General Election, and the only question for the Prime Minister to consider is whether, with the aid of the Labour members and the Irish, or either of them, he can still carry on the Government.

Parlez vous francais?

If not, apply at once to one of the branches of the

BERLITZ SCHOOLS

the pioneers of Practical Language teaching, where a free trial lesson can be had in

FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN, RUSSIAN.

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THIS IS OUR POPULAR 'LUDGATE' STYLE.

WE ARE NOW MAKING this smart, gentlemanly Suit in Reliable Tweed Cloths, Cheviots, & Hard-wearing Yorkshire Suitings in all the favourite designs, including the immensely popular shadow stripe patterns in Olive and Brown Shades, and other attractive colourings.

Send a Post Card to-day for Patterns of Material cut from cloth lengths now making up, and Self-measure Form, Free.

WE DELIVER this handsome well Tailored Suit, the cut and fit absolutely above criticism,

FOR ONLY 2/6 WITH ORDER

and if entirely pleased when tried on, there is 2/6 more to pay on delivery, and the balance is payable in six monthly instalments of 2/- If at all disappointed with either material, tailoring or fit, we instantly return all money paid.

Gentlemen who appreciate style, comfort and economy should write to-day for our patterns of 25/-, 35/- and 42/- Suits on Easy Payment Terms.

Say whether Light or Dark Patterns preferred.

J.S. GRAVES Ltd.
SHEFFIELD.

Is your Pipe ALL you could wish?

Doesn't it sometimes burn your tongue? Doesn't it sometimes fill your mouth with ill-tasting moisture. The

"MASTA" PIPE

cannot burn your tongue, *cannot* fill your mouth or the pipe-bowl with moisture or nicotine. The "Masta" patent prevents all that. Everybody can enjoy a "Masta" even if they cannot smoke an ordinary pipe.

Made of best selected briar.

Note the special construction.

Section of Straight Pattern.

No parts to get out of order. Cleaned easily and instantly. Obtainable of all leading tobacconists. Price 2/6, 4/-, 5/6, 8/-, &c. Cheaper quality, 1/-. Write to-day for free booklet, "Points on Pipes." Full of useful hints.

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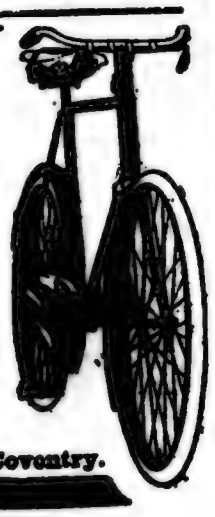

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LISSUE Handkerchiefs for Women of Quality.

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Feel your pulse. Is it regular? Do you ever have **Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Skipping a Beat, Cold Hands or Feet, Dropsy, Pains under the Left Shoulder Blade, Trouble in lying on Left Side, Dizzy Spells, Drowsiness after Eating, Violent Starts in Your Sleep, Fulness in the Throat, Neuralgia around the Heart?**

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We will send a free package sufficient for a week's use, together with an illustrated book on Heart disease, relying on your telling your friends if **OXIEN** does you good. Full particulars of use and of some of the cures with every packet. It costs you nothing to try. THE GIANT OXIEN CO., Ltd. (Dept. 222, F.M.), 8, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.

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SEE THE

"WEEKLY REPORT,"

1, Tokenhouse Bldgs., London, E.C.

Fill in this Coupon for Sample Copy Free.

NAME..... .....

ADDRESS .....

A. W. B. (Letchworth) enquires whether any readers have had any dealings with the Universal Electric Supply Co., Brook Street, Manchester, to whom he has sent money

A. E. D. (Carmarthen).—We agree that a Recorder who commits a man for three years for stealing 1s. 11d. is "void of mercy or feeling."

J. B. (Birmingham) has come to the conclusion that "England cannot be beaten for cant and hypocrisy. . . . The King's speech is prepared by others. In the House of Lords we have bishops. Why not, say, bedstead-makers?" We do not quite see the connection, nor do we agree that capital punishment is to be regarded as murder.

S. S. (London).—The Chief Whips are paid salaries as Lords of the Treasury. Writs for the General Election are issued on the advice of the Government of the day.

F. H. S. (London).—The expenses of Parliamentary candidates are limited by the Corrupt Practices Act, and are governed by the number of electors on the register, the rule being roughly £30 for every 1 000 electors in Boroughs, with a little more in Counties.

Y. Z. (Slough).—We quite agree with you as to the iniquity of the present system under which candidates have to pay the entire charges of the Returning Officer, including the fees to the Presiding officers and Polling Clerks, to which you refer. Having just parted with nearly one thousand of the "best" we feel keenly on the subject.

F. W. J. (Charlton).—All we meant to suggest about Will Crooks was, that he could do better work as an open air missionary than as a member of Parliament. The two things are so distinct.

W. B. (London) tells us that "a certain gentleman in Newcastle" wrote to a London firm asking for three or four electric motors on approbation, and having got them he at once placed them on exhibition at the local Tariff Reform Dumping Shop labelled "made in Germany." We should describe him as a somewhat uncertain gentleman.

G. E. W. (London) does not suppose it possible for us to appreciate Mr. James Stuart's worth. He is quite right.

W. H. J. (Ware).—We agree that it would be a pity if employers of labour followed the advice in a contemporary to bring political pressure to bear upon their dependants.

H. C. (Hull).—You need not wait until you are twenty-one in order to join the League.

J. C. (Lower Edmonton).—We are sorry to hear that your neighbours are so spiteful and that you have been deprived of your pleasant walks by the river bank.

F. D. (Bethnal Green).—We hesitate to believe that the Archbishop of Canterbury has sent round to schools telling the children to pray that the Conservatives may get in. Who told you so?

G. P. B. (London, N.W.) is more emphatic than polite in questioning the statement of our correspondent who told us she could address 3,000 envelopes in one day.

"Votes for Seamen" (Cadishead).—We quite agree that it is very unfair to disfranchise people merely on account of their nomadic habits.

W. A. W. (Glasgow) suggests the passing of a law to abolish patents and get rid of the German war scare. He also suggests that Crow had better not come to Ostend next summer lest he should be reproached with his article on Belgians. At this rate, Crow won't be able to go anywhere. Poor us!

L. P. (Weymouth) has been annoyed by a circular attacking land monopoly, but it is no answer to say: "Rot!" Our correspondent, however, seems to express very accurately what he has in his mind.

"An English Man" (Westminster) says he does not agree with Lord Roberts about Canada. If Canadians cannot stand Englishmen, the less we hear about their patriotism the better.

"Fair Play" (Walthamstow) complains of the arbitrary action of the London Football Association, which punishes people who venture to play on Sundays. We echo the prayer: "O! for Business Football Associations!" This is peculiarly appropriate now that football has become a business.

A. M. (Southsea).—We are not surprised that mediums are taking up the German war scare. Perhaps they see it coming.

H. C. S. (Hove) protests against the statement that Anglican churches are half-empty. He has lived and travelled over the greater part of England, Wales and Scotland, and has never seen a half-empty Church on Sunday. In fact, he very often finds it impossible to get a seat at all unless he goes early. Finally, he says: "You would like the concert-halls and theatres open on Sundays, and so cause thousands of workers to be deprived of the day of rest simply to minister to the wants of selfish people who have no thought for the workers, only for their own pleasures." It might equally be said that church-goers are selfishin compelling parsons and choir-boys to work on Sundays.

M. L. H. (W. Croydon) has a brother in Queensland who says that "no man at the present time need travel 300 miles from the coast in search of work, that is, if he has any heart in him at all. Queensland is the place for him, and, what is more, he will get paid a fair wage." This brother found employment half-an-hour after landing. Lucky dog.

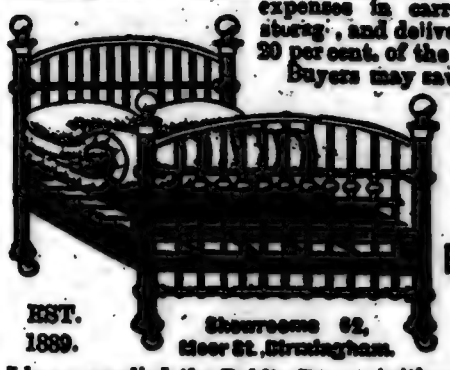
J. E. T. (Dudley) complains about the refusal of a certificate of naturalisation to a man who has lived in this country for forty years and has been on the register for more than twenty years, being only struck off recently. We suppose that the Home Secretary had some good reason, but we are filled with alarm to hear that it is possible for an alien to be a voter for twenty years without detection. Oh, for that Business Government!

We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

Are You Awake—Why Not?

All Goods Sent Direct from Factory to Home.

Practically all bedsteads are manufactured in Birmingham. From this city they are sent to furniture dealers everywhere for retail sale, incurring heavy distributing expenses; for instance, from Birmingham to London, and from London Dealer to Purchaser, expenses in carriage, packing, handling, storage, and delivery amount to as much as 20 per cent. of the value of an iron bedstead. Buyers may save most of these expenses and avoid risks of injury by double handling, etc., by purchasing direct from me—all goods being sent direct from Works in a perfectly new condition.



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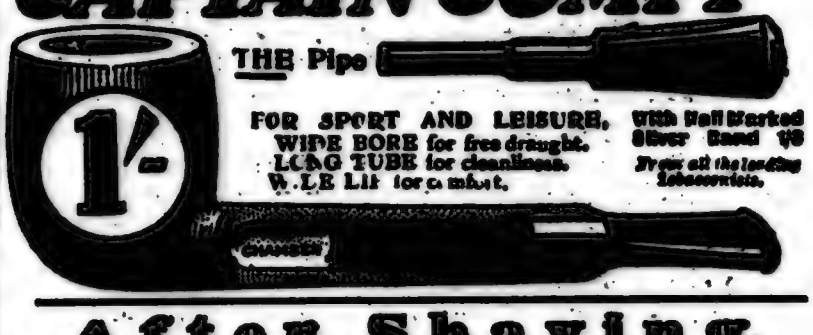
CAPTAIN COMFY



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"THE LAW OF FINANCIAL SUCCESS"

tells you in plain English how to make money and secure financial independence. It contains positive rules and instructions for every man and woman desirous of bettering their financial condition. The low price is but a fraction of its real value. Over 100,000 copies have already been sold. The book will be mailed post-paid promptly upon receipt of 6d.

6D.

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MEAT "FIBRINE" **DOG CAKES**

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CONTAIN NO ADDED SUGAR, NO CHEMICALS

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Squeeze a little on your hand &

Rub it in

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POLISHES BLACK and BROWN

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RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.)

Prophetic.

At Sandown to-day (Thursday) whichever Mr. Hibbert runs, must win the Lammas Selling Plate, whilst Fop missed Gatwick very possibly in reserve for the Warren Plate.

On the next afternoon

Sprinkle Me

is a "steeplechase certainty" in the Grand Military Gold Cup, in which, I am afraid, as last year, His Majesty's horse will find an invincible opponent. I do trust Mr. Dermot McCalmont will change his original intention of not running anything against Sprinkle Me, by reason of the latter's lucky escape from the maximum penalty. There could probably not be two horses less adapted to amateur handling than Sachem and *Sutton Park*, the latter of whom is thrown into the Past and Present Handicap Steeplechase, and will win it with capable jockeyship, for he does not need a tremendous amount of riding. Presuming that he is saved for it,

Blunderbuss

can carry one's maximum in the Selling Steeplechase, whilst the "aforesaid" Fop (as the lawyers express it) must win the Sandown Maiden if kept for it.

Towards the end of the season we get class horses in the selling stakes, but I should say that neither Weather Eye nor Garrogie will be saddled for Saturday's race. Either would be a certainty, in the order named. The Grand Military Handicap is a second edition of the Gold Cup, but giving evidence of how *much* Sprinkle Me has in hand on weight-for-age form. This race I consider more than likely to fall to

Barbed Head,

whose owner has had two unlucky seconds upon him, but will make amends here. The gambling part of the day occurs in the big race, the Imperial Cup, in which, I think, the 1,000 sovereigns has literally been "given" to

Oilskin,

unless something unnatural, as usual, happens.

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The OLDEST ESTABLISHED & MOST EXTENSIVE FIRM of TURF COMMISSION AGENTS in the WORLD.
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Is a private publication, issued every Monday.
EVERY COPY CONTAINS AUTHENTIC RACING INTELLIGENCE PROBABLY UNOBTAINABLE ELSEWHERE.
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OVER-NIGHT ONE-HORSE CODE SELECTIONS
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THE TOTALISATOR
(Pari-Mutuel),
FLUSHING, HOLLAND.
DAILY EXPRESS, July 11th, 1908.—"Whatever the support given to it, the thing will be straight."
ABERDEEN DAILY JOURNAL, Dec. 3, 1909.—"Taking race for race during the whole season, 76 per cent. of 'Tote' prices against winners have been better than starting prices. In other words, the 'Tote' has paid better prices on three out of every four races on which 'Tote' pools have been opened."
Second Pool Lincoln Handicap closes March 8th.
First Pool Grand National closes March 11th.
First Pool, Double Event, Lincoln Handicap and Grand National closes March 8th.
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'The Scout' says:
"I put these amounts on with Bert Fry, of Flushing, Holland, who is a member of Tattersall's and who pays if he loses. Fortunately, I have evidence that he does."
Kindly Mention Paper.

The "MIRROR OF LIFE," Jan. 1st, says:—
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"The English Cup" Free Competition will again take place on March 5th which entitles each successful Competitor to a First Class return ticket from where residing, also a Specially Reserved Seat to witness the Final of the English Cup at the Crystal Palace.
Write at once for Rules, Lists, etc.

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No Football Business undertaken. | Any feasible System worked.
List of Systems and Terms on receipt of 1d. postcard to—
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IDEALLY PRODUCED.

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Read Once—You'll never Miss it.

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OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR 50 HELPERS AT 2 GUINEAS APIECE.

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To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL of specified date, bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of February 5th:—

5579	115501	171809	197251	229995
23557	147163	172305	202027	232707
34277	149112	172801	209899	233203
39387	149608	181320	210405	246111
62682	151166	183451	211719	246607
76986	155766	186960	216975	247103
82690	161646	193582	217966	247599
88130	168247	195717	220242	252493
109555	168743	195763	226677	256846
111433	170391	196259	229469	257342

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED APRIL 2ND (PUBLISHED MARCH 31ST).

Hello! old chap, getting ready to start again? What! I had a good time last season, thanks to Duggie; but, by Jove, I have just had his little "Sportsman's Friend," and his terms are better than ever. It beats me how the deuce he manages to get such big terms into such a tiny little book, It's the neatest and most complete little thing I've ever seen, and it will always find a place in my watch pocket.

Huh! I've just had a "Diary" from my man. The "Diary" is all right, but it's all "Diary" and No Terms. I've looked it through, and you'll find MY "Diary," pretty as it is, in the waste-paper basket. It's all right to LOOK at, but mighty little use for Racing; and as for its TERMS, well, the least said, the better.

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PLACE COMMISSIONS Even when Favourite Starts "Odds On."

***The most Up-to-Date and Reliable Turf Accountant in the Kingdom.*—*Vide* Press.**

The Scout said: "Mr. Douglas Stuart is indeed an acquisition." . . . . *The Sporting Times* said: "Mr. Stuart allows Place Betting even when a Favourite starts 'Odds On,' and pays 'No Limit.'" . . . . *The Winning Post* said: "Mr. Stuart pays 'No Limit,' and allows Place Betting when Favourite starts 'Odds On.' These are concessions which must attract sportsmen, for they are safe in the hands of this most liberal Commission Agent." . . . . *The Sporting Life* said: "Mr. Douglas Stuart is one of the few Commission Agents who have 'No Limit,' the full market odds returned being paid, and he also allows Place Betting when the Favourite starts 'Odds On.'" . . . . *John Bull* said: "Sportsmen want to be very careful in selecting a thoroughly reliable Turf Accountant who will pay them without fuss or delay. We should advise them to apply to Douglas Stuart, for his Terms, which they will find fair, as he bets 'No Limit,' and allows Place Betting even when the Favourite starts 'Odds On.'" . . . . *The Scout* said: "It tests a bank pretty severely when long price winners keep popping up, but Mr. Douglas Stuart always comes up smiling. Mr. Stuart certainly deserves to be successful." . . . . *The Sporting Set* said: "Mr. Stuart had a good many clients who found 'Wychwood' at Gatwick at 20 to 1, still the big firm comes up smiling." . . . . *The Winning Post* said: "An extensive clientele, such as Mr. Douglas Stuart's, can only be kept together in an honest and straightforward manner. If a horse wins at 100 to 1, Mr. Stuart's clients are paid 100 to 1."

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